Oxfordshire Guardian
ABINGDON EDITION

What's on in OXFORDSHIRE
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Teaming up as part of Apprenticeship Week p3

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Thursday, January 23 - Wednesday, January 29, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Consultation starts on South Abingdon crossings

A CONSULTATION on pelican crossings on Ock Street and Marcham Road, linked to plans for a 159-home development on Drayton Road, has been launched by Oxfordshire County Council.

The crossings were a requirement set out by the Planning Inspectorate when they granted permission to developers Hallam Land Management to build housing on Drayton Road.

The existing crossing close to the double mini roundabout on Marcham Road would be moved further along the road, while a new crossing would be installed on the other side of the roundabout on Ock Street.

It is hoped that the installation of new crossings near to the double mini roundabout would alleviate traffic that the extra houses would bring.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But Cllr Neil Fawcett, who represents Abingdon South on the county council, believes that the proposed crossings could in fact make the traffic worse.

He said: "The way it was put forward was that this is a solution to allow extra traffic on Drayton Road by holding up motorists coming into the junction from Ock Street.

"It seems pretty inevitable to me if you deliberately hold up the traffic coming into that junction, it's going to make Ock Street worse.

"There may be other ways in which traffic can be reduced, such as looking at whether the bridge could be changed to two carriageways heading north, which is something that's been proposed in the past."

Cllr Fawcett also indicated a safety element of moving the Marcham Road traffic lights, in that pedestrians may not walk the extra distance to cross the road.

He added: "The reason the crossing is where it is, is to allow people to cross who are coming in from Drayton Road, particularly schoolchildren who are heading up to Larkmead School.

"It's the nature of all pedestrians, particularly children, that if you don't put the crossing in a convenient place, they will try and cross the road themselves."

A representative from Hallam Land Management could not be reached for comment as the Guardian went to press.

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U's ladies pair to take on triathlon

TWO members of Oxford United's Ladies team are set to take on the triathlon at Blenheim Palace this summer.

Midfielder Holly Pickett and defender Amy Chivers will be joined by a competition winner to work as a relay team to complete the Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research Blenheim Palace Triathlon on June 7.

Amy will either run or swim while Holly will cycle.

The latter, who plays on the left wing for Oxford United Ladies, explained: "A couple of weeks ago we were asked who would like to take part in the triathlon.

"I said I'd love to take part so I came forward."

With the FA Women's Super League 2 due to begin in April, the ladies team has just started their pre-season training.

Despite cycling throughout the festive period, Holly feels it is perfect preparation for the triathlon.

"I do a lot of cycling, obviously not in season, and when I've got some spare time at the weekend," she said.

"We have just started pre-season as our league starts in April so over the Christmas break I have been doing lots of cycling.

"I started getting into cycling properly last year and a lot of my friends have road bikes and do routes.

"I got quite interested in it and started doing routes last year and I hoped to do something this year so this is a perfect way to get into this sort of thing."

She added: "I find cycling easier than running, just because you have got something more to focus on. It is also non-impact and is better in preventing injury."

Oxford United gained a license to join the new Women's Super League last year and are just a few months away from the beginning of the season.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Holly Pickett, pictured with Oxford United's mens first-team players Alfie Potter and Max Crocombe*

Holly continued: "As a club we are all very excited.

"It's a great opportunity and all the players are enjoying pre-season as much as you can to get ready for April.

"Pre-season is tough but it's good to feel that you will be fit at the end of it so it's worth the sweat and tears."

Pool campaign group vows to keep fighting

A GROUP of Oxford residents who have been campaigning to keep Temple Cowley Pools open have said they will not give up, despite the city council announcing that the site will be sold for housing.

Save Temple Cowley Pools have been fighting for the past four years to keep the facility open after Blackbird Leys pool has been completed and opened.

It comes after six petitions have been given to the council over the past four years to save Temple Cowley Pools, the first of which attracting over 12,000 signatures.

A seventh is scheduled to go to the council next month.

Nigel Gibson, from Save Temple Cowley Pools, said: "This changes absolutely nothing. We always knew that this was the council's intention, so it's not unexpected.

"We will carry on for as long as we can to keep the facility open for the good of the people in Oxford and beyond."

Cllr Mike Rowley, board member for leisure services, said: "The site is being advertised now to ensure that there is enough time for the consultation and any planning issues that arise to be sorted out.

"We want the site to provide affordable housing and we will be working with the developer who purchases the site to ensure that this happens."

Senior green figures set to meet for eco-future talks

ENVIRONMENTAL leaders from across the country are set to meet in Oxford tomorrow afternoon to discuss building a sustainable future for the county.

The 'OxFutures: Action on Energy' event will talk about attracting £400million of investment into low carbon innovation, energy reduction and renewable projects by 2020.

Jonathon Porritt CBE, Leo Johnson, Catherine Mason CBE, Dr Barbara Hammond and Tim Stephenson OBE, will be among the panel of speakers.

They will be leading a call to action from business, communities and investors in Oxfordshire.

Mr Porritt CBE, co-founder of Forum for the Future, will share his positive vision of a new energy future with communities at its heart.

Meanwhile, Dr Hammond, CEO of the Low Carbon Hub, will outline the energy challenge for Oxfordshire and talk through the potential for low carbon innovation to drive the local economy.

OxFutures is a partnership between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council with local social enterprise the Low Carbon Hub.

The summit takes place at the Said Business School. starting from 2.30pm.

News Bites

Conviction

A 36-YEAR-OLD man from Bicester has been found guilty of causing death by careless driving.

Daniel Fallaw was driving a silver Ford Escort in Neunkirchen Way, Bicester, when he collided with cyclist David Parris who sustained fatal head injuries.

Fallaw will be sentenced on February 13.

Man injured

A CYCLIST was left with a broken ankle and a head injury that required medical treatment after he was hit by a car that didn't stop on the A423 between Mollington and Great Bourton.

The incident took place at around 10am on Sunday and the car, believed to be a black Toyota, lost its near-side wing mirror as a result of the collision.

PC Russell Mizon said: "I would like to hear from anyone who was in the area who may have witnessed the collision, or anyone who has seen a black Toyota with a missing near-side wing mirror."

Contact 101 with information.

Police appeal

THREE offenders robbed an Oxford bookmakers armed with a handgun and a hammer on Monday evening, stealing money from the safe.

The incident took place at Stan James bookmakers in Roundway, Headington, at around 8.35pm, with the suspects wearing balaclavas and possibly travelling in a Peugeot 406 estate.

Investigating officer Det Sgt Mark Stalder said: "I would appeal to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area that night to contact police immediately on 101."

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Teaming up as part of Apprenticeship Week

ABINGDON is celebrating Apprenticeship Week from Monday, as a partnership of local and national services join together to raise awareness of the apprenticeship opportunities available in the town.

A pop-up 'ApprenticeSHOP' will be based in the Choose Abingdon Community Shop, in Bury Street, during the week, for young people to find out more about apprenticeships.

It will be staffed by experts from Oxfordshire Apprenticeships, the National Apprenticeship Service and Oxfordshire County Council, and open from 11am to 5pm each day.

Claudia Taylor and her 17-year-old son PJ visited an ApprenticeSHOP in Bicester last month.

She said: "My son and I found the whole idea of a pop-up shop about apprenticeships extremely useful and it gave us another avenue to pursue in the very

By Adam Flinn
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difficult task of finding a career for a 17-year-old with learning difficulties. The advisers on the day were very welcoming and gave us lots of information to take away and think about.

"All in all, very informative and we would recommend anyone to come along to the next one."

As well as the pop-up shop, a 'Making Sense of Apprenticeships' event is taking place at the Miele Experience Centre next Thursday from 9.30am.

This is focused on local employers, who can find out about the advantages of having apprentices in the workplace as well as having their questions answered by a panel of experts.

Nicki Smith is in the process of hiring an engineering apprentice in her role as business operations manager at Airdri, in Eynsham.

• *Claudia Taylor and son PJ speak with Scott Hatwood from the National Apprenticeship Service*

She attended a similar event in December, and said: "It was very informative, especially as I had no idea where to start!

"I'd recommend the event to other employers, especially if you are new to apprenticeships. It's a relaxed way of finding out a lot of information."

Choose Abingdon Partnership chairman Bryan Brown said: "We are delighted that this is happening in Abingdon and we fully support the Apprenticeship Week initiative.

"Getting young people into work is one of the most important social and economic factors facing this country today.

"We're pleased to see information about apprenticeships being brought into our community and hope that local people will take advantage of these opportunities."

Crack down on town's shoplifters

SHOPS in Abingdon have joined together with Thames Valley Police for a new scheme to deter shoplifters from operating in the town.

Abingdon Shopwatch involves 12 retailers, who radio each other about shoplifters and report any incidents of crime.

Anyone caught shoplifting in one of the participating shops can then be banned from all of the member stores for a period of up to 12 months, with the decision made at a meeting between the retailers.

PCSO Alison Blood was one of the officers who set up the scheme in Abingdon, and she hopes it will expand to cover a lot more shops in the coming months.

She said: "It's a proactive scheme, a partnership between the local shops to have more communication amongst themselves, and to make Abingdon a better place to live in.

"We've just started off with 12 shops. We thought we'd start small to get it running and then it will be offered to other shops to join the scheme to expand it. Obviously the more shops that are on the scheme, the more people are working together."

• *The Chilingirian Quartet are at Abingdon School's Amey Theatre next month*

School set for string-a-long as quartet plays its way into town

ABINGDON School is host to the world-renowned Chilingirian Quartet next month, in a unique performance by the critically acclaimed string ensemble to be held on February 5.

The Quartet is led by the Armenian-born Levon Chilingirian, and have won numerous prizes including the Royal Philharmonic Society Chamber Music Award, the Cobbett Medal and Best String Quartet by Gramophone Magazine.

Levon has previously held three violin masterclasses at the school, and is looking forward to returning.

He said: "We really look forward to our visits to Abingdon School, where we always have a rewarding afternoon teaching the highly-responsive students.

"Now we have the privilege of performing in front of a warm and very enthusiastic audience!"

Michael Stinton, director of music at Abingdon School, said: "I am delighted that we are able to welcome back Levon and his amazing quartet.

"The boys can learn so much from hearing these internationally famous musicians who are at the top of their game, so to have the Quartet coach our young chamber musicians beforehand is a huge bonus."

The performance starts in the school's Amey Theatre from 7pm, and tickets cost £13. To book online, go to www.abingdon-booking.info.

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Girl gets £5m payout after hospital mistake

MP hails 'really important work' of charity

• *Andrew Smith meets with One-Eighty's director of interventions Johnny Latham and director of group work Susie Besant*

OXFORD East MP Andrew Smith visited local charity One-Eighty on Friday, to see the work they do with young people who are having difficulties with their social, school and family circumstances.

Many of those helped by the charity are of school-age, and live in children's homes or with foster parents.

Mr Smith said: "This is really important work, helping young people to find their way forward and to get their lives back on track, building self-esteem and re-engaging with school and social life in a constructive way.

"It is very heartening to learn of the great success-rate of the programmes that One-Eighty provide."

Johnny Latham, director of interventions at the charity, said: "This year One-Eighty was shortlisted for Oxfordshire Charity of the Year and as a result Andrew Smith asked to visit our office in Northway.

"It was really encouraging to see how engaged Andrew was with the plight of service providers in the charity sector.

"After seeing how effective and important we are to the children of Oxfordshire, Andrew offered to support us with letters of recommendation to potential trusts and funders who would perhaps ignore smaller charities like ours."

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl from Oxfordshire has been awarded a settlement worth approximately £5million, after she was left severely disabled following errors made by two hospitals at the time of her birth.

Louisa Ravouvou suffered severe injuries after hospital staff failed to respond to a bleed on her brain while she was in the womb, and did not give her a necessary blood transfusion shortly after her birth in October 2003.

In May 2012, the Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Trust and the Great Western Hospitals (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust admitted jointly a breach of care, and the settlement was approved on Friday.

Sue Jarvis, who acted for Louisa in the case, said: "This settlement means that Louisa will receive a package for the rest of her life, valued at approximately £5million.

"Louisa's family has already moved to specialist accommodation, which will be adapted to meet her needs and a professional care regime has been appointed.

"Although Louisa is severely disabled she has a delightful disposition and potential to be able to indicate her preferences,

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

and her specialist accommodation and care team will try and improve her quality of life as much as possible.

"Louisa has a much reduced life expectancy but the award will ensure that during her shortened life she receives the care and aids and appliances which she needs."

A spokesperson for OUH NHS Trust said: "The trust offered its sincere apologies for the identified failures in care leading up to Ms Ravouvou's delivery in 2003.

"The Trust has made an admission of liability and has agreed a settlement with Ms Ravouvou and her family, which we hope will provide assistance for her future and assist Ms Ravouvou in reaching her full potential."

A statement by GWH NHS Foundation Trust said: "The Trust has admitted liability and apologised for failings in care prior to Ms Ravouvou's delivery in 2003.

"We hope that the terms of settlement approved by the High Court will assist Ms Ravouvou in the future."

Appeal after woman raped in Harwell

POLICE are appealing for information after a woman was raped in Harwell on December 2.

Between 9.30pm and 11pm, the victim was raped by an unknown man in a field near North Drive.

The offender is said to be 30 to 35-years-old, and is white, over 6ft tall with dark hair.

Police officers would like to speak to anyone who was in the area on December 2 or saw anyone acting suspiciously around Harwell.

Det Insp Louise Roddy said: "We are in the early stages of this investigation but I urge people to think back to December and if they have any information, however small, to contact police immediately.

"I also want to take this opportunity to remind people that incidents like this are extremely rare and we are doing everything to locate this offender.

"The neighbourhood team will be patrolling the area and I ask anyone with any concerns, please do approach them or get in touch on 101."

If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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News Bites

Remembering

A SERVICE to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on Monday at Oxford Town Hall, hosted by Lord Mayor Dee Sinclair.

January 27 was declared by the United Nations as an international day for remembrance of the millions of people affected by the Holocaust, which is being marked in Oxford.

Ivory haul

A TEAM from Oxford Brookes may have uncovered one of the biggest unregulated ivory markets in Asia. Along with the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, more than 3,300 pieces of ivory and close to 50 raw ivory elephant tusks were found openly for sale in Mong La, Burma.

It means Mong La could rank alongside leading markets for the illegal domestic and international ivory trade.

In custody

A 29-YEAR-OLD man from Oxford remains in custody after being arrested on suspicion of sexual assault on a woman. He was arrested on January 15 in connection with a sexual assault in Marston Street during the early hours of the day.

Dream come true for brave Judith

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AN OXFORD girl who doctors predicted would never walk as achieved her dream of riding a bike.

Judith Stickings, 10, suffered complications at birth that left her with cerebral palsy and developmental delays, but has been determined to ride a bike on her own.

And following a successful appeal by national charity Caudwell Children, Judith has now received a specialist therapy tricycle.

Judith's mother Gillian described her delight at seeing her daughter ride a bike, and said: "To see her come this far in just 10 years is incredible.

"Being told by doctors that your child will probably never walk is heart-breaking, so we are very proud of her.

"Her condition means she is very weak on her right-hand side, and this makes it very hard for her to get around.

"So when we heard what a tricycle could do for her and how Caudwell Children could help us get it, we were thrilled.

"It is strange asking people for money, you feel like you're asking cap in hand.

"But after the appeal, we were getting lots of donations through Just Giving from kind strangers. It was very moving and now Judith has her trike.

"We've had an amazing experience with Caudwell Children."

Trudi Beswick, CEO of Caudwell Children, said: "Seeing success stories like this are heartwarming.

"Therapy tricycles can make an immeasurable difference to the lives and development of children with disabilities as it gives them their freedom and the chance to develop.

"However we work every day to help more children like Judith receive the vital equipment they need, and we therefore need more money and support to make more dreams come true."

Judith is able to try out her tricycle around the streets where she lives and has been showing off to the neighbours, many of whom were pivotal in the fundraising efforts.

For more information about the charity, go to www.caudwellchidren.com.

• *Judith Stickings tries out her new tricycle*

Comedians 'share psycho characteristics'

COMEDIANS show high levels of psychotic personality traits, according to researchers from the University of Oxford and Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

They suggested that an unusual personality structure could be key to making other people laugh, focusing on the belief that creativity is associated with madness.

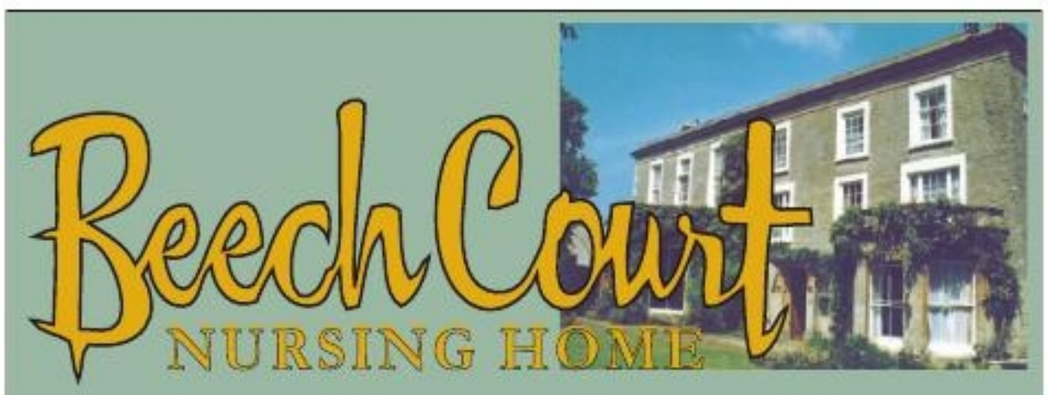
The research was published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, with 523 comedians taking part in the study.

All of the comedians were asked to complete an online questionnaire, measuring unusual experiences, distractions, social and physical pleasure, and impulsive behaviour.

It was also completed by 364 actors, who acted as a control group, and then compared with a general group of 831 people who had non-creative occupations.

Professor Gordon Claridge, of the University of Oxford's Department of Experimental Psychology, said: "The creative elements needed to produce humour are strikingly similar to those characterising the cognitive style of people with psychosis.

"Our study shows that, as creative people, comedians rate highly on the same personality traits as those regularly observed in other creative individuals."



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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT OXFORD'S MOST INTIMATE MUSIC VENUE

Upcoming Concerts

24-25 January	**M@SH: Cage** - circus on Finnegans Wake
Friday 31 January	**Bernard d'Ascoli:** Fauré, Chopin
Saturday 01 February	**M@SH Marathon**
Wednesday 12 February	**Robin Michael & Daniel Tong:** Brahms
Friday 21 February	**M@SH: Kurtag** - Kafka Fragments
22-23 February	**M@SH: Finnissy** - History of Photography in Sound
Friday 28 February	**Mahan Esfahani:** Harpsichord Recital
Saturday 08 March	**Fitzwilliam Quartet:** Shostakovich
Friday 20 June	**Cavaleri Quartet:** Beethoven, Janáček, Mozart

Family, Education and Community Events

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MP's Corner

Nicola Blackwood

MP for Oxford West and Abingdon

I'll improve flood defences

FOR too many local residents and business owners, what should have been a time to celebrate the New Year and recharge batteries with family and friends quickly soured as rising flood waters once again put their homes and businesses at risk. As flooding continued, roads closed, rail services were severely disrupted and our local economy suffered. I can only imagine how difficult it has been in the last few weeks for anxious residents facing possible evacuation and as your local MP, I am determined to raise the issue of improving our local flood defences higher up the local and national agenda.

Meeting with residents in some of the worst affected areas, like South Hinksey and Osney, I was struck by the importance of short term flood defence measures like flood gates in homes, emergency plans for communities and targeted pumps and barriers. Measures like these meant that homes that would have flooded a few years ago were better protected this year. Residents from all over have also commented on the improvement of the coordination and effectiveness of emergency response, especially from the Environment Agency, since the 2007 floods.

Unfortunately for too many foul water flooding and inadequate drainage made the floods even more stressful. We need urgent action to address this and I have made this point repeatedly to both Thames Water and the Environment Secretary.

I am pleased that hard-working local groups such as Oxfordshire Flood Alliance and the Abingdon Flood Action Group have done a great deal to highlight these problems to relevant authorities and I will be meeting in person with Thames Water in the near future to discuss how this appalling state of affairs can be more effectively prevented in the future.

I will continue to put pressure on the Government, response agencies and utility companies to improve and strengthen our flood defences. This week I co-signed a letter with Andrew Smith MP to the Prime Minister, highlighting our ongoing concerns about the impact of regular flooding on Oxfordshire's economy and calling for his support in improving our flood defences. I also intend to put the case directly to the Environment Agency that regular dredging of key tributaries around Oxford area is now more necessary than ever.

Bigger heart for West Oxon

WEST Oxfordshire District Council has given the go-ahead for life-saving defibrillators to be installed across the area to help cardiac arrest victims.

The cabinet approved a £27,000 scheme last week to offer towns and parishes in West Oxfordshire funding towards their own Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

This initiative will compliment a donation made by an anonymous donor, who gave enough funding for AEDs to be installed in 24 locations in the district.

Cllr Mark Booty, cabinet member for health, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be offering this chance to our towns and parishes.

"These kits can mean the difference between life and death and are of vital importance, particularly in rural areas like ours that can be affected by ambulance and emergency response times.

"Together with the equipment so generously donated, we are confident that our district will have the highest level of defibrillator coverage in the country.

"We believe we should give our residents the best possible chance of survival and hope this scheme will help to make West Oxfordshire one of the safest places to live if you suffer a cardiac arrest."

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AEDS have so far been installed in Cassington, Combe, Finstock and Stonesfield, with others in Shipton-under-Wychwood, Burford, Eynsham, Leafield and Lyneham expected in the coming weeks.

Dick Tracey, divisional responder manager for South Central Ambulance Service, said: "When someone goes into cardiac arrest, time is of the essence.

"For every minute that passes where there's no active treatment, the chances of a successful resuscitation reduces by 10 per cent.

"Having these machines, particularly in the villages, will significantly increase chances of survival."

Some parishes in West Oxfordshire have already fundraised to install an AED, including Chipping Norton and Aston, near Bampton.

Aston's AED has been fitted outside the village's Repair Depot, after a fundraising effort by parish councillor Paul Sparrowhawk, The Red Lion pub landlord Andrew Cripps and Depot owner Andy Ball.

Andy said: "We just felt we had to get one and there was lots of support from everyone in the village.

"The cost is tiny when you think about the impact it could have."

• *Dick Tracey and Cllr Mark Booty with one of the AEDs*

News Bites

Man bailed

A 49-YEAR-OLD man has been released on bail after being arrested in connection with the death of a woman in Banbury.

The body of Anne-Marie Gale was found in Dover Avenue on January 15 with a post-mortem in to her death proving inconclusive.

The man has been bailed until March 27.

Station robbed

POLICE are appealing for information after a man robbed a Brize Norton petrol station in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The man went into the BP petrol station in Carterton Road wearing a black ski mask and brandishing a knife, and stole money after demanding a member of staff open the three tills.

He is white, 5ft 7ins of a medium build, and is believed to have left the scene in a black Rover-shaped car.

Retail therapy

WEST Oxfordshire District Council has launched a new scheme to give small retailers the chance to gain a business support package.

Cabinet members have approved a pilot project to give 10 independent shops and cafes the chance to receive support.

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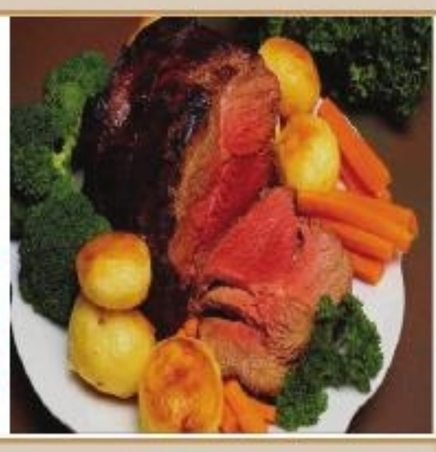

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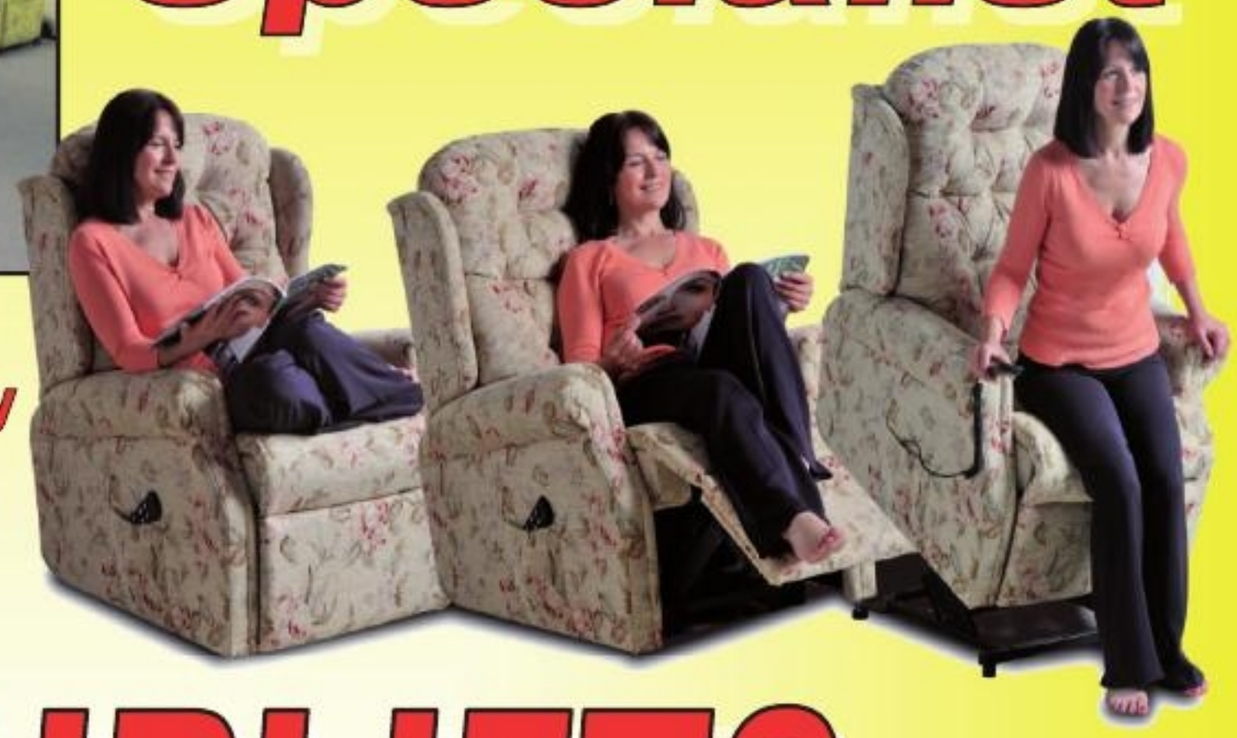

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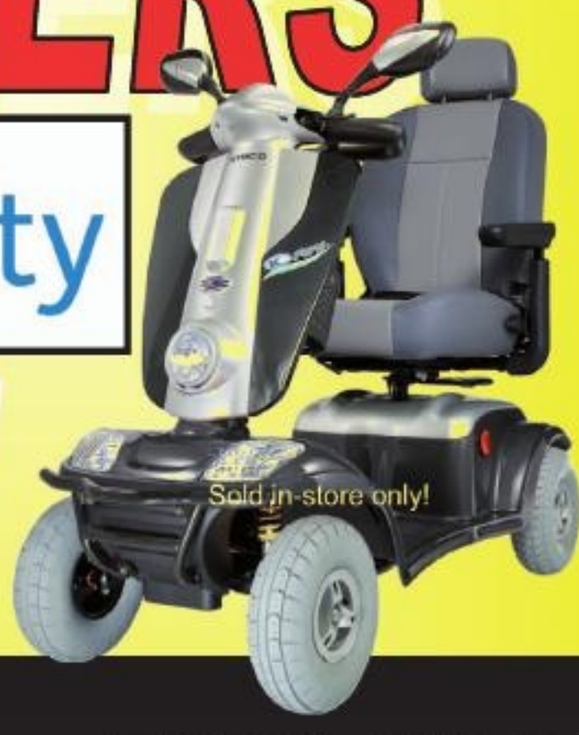

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Can you please be a bit more Pacific?

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A FIREFIGHTER who is set to row the Pacific later this year got a little help from his colleagues earlier this week as they simulated the ocean's choppy waters at Farmoor Reservoir.

Darren Taylor, 41, from Charlbury, and old school friend Alex Flynn, 42, from Goring, will be taking part in the inaugural Great Pacific Race in June.

Thames Water allowed Mr Taylor to take to the water in a rowing boat to be soaked by high pressure jets which were wielded by members of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

This gave Darren some idea of the rough conditions that he and Alex will face out in the Pacific.

However, the waters of the Pacific in June will be a lot warmer than that of Farmoor Reservoir on a chilly winter morning.

"At least 10 degrees warmer," said Darren, who is quitting his job as a firefighter to complete the challenge. "We will be really low to the water so we are going to get hit with waves an awful lot of the time, it is just a case of battling on through.

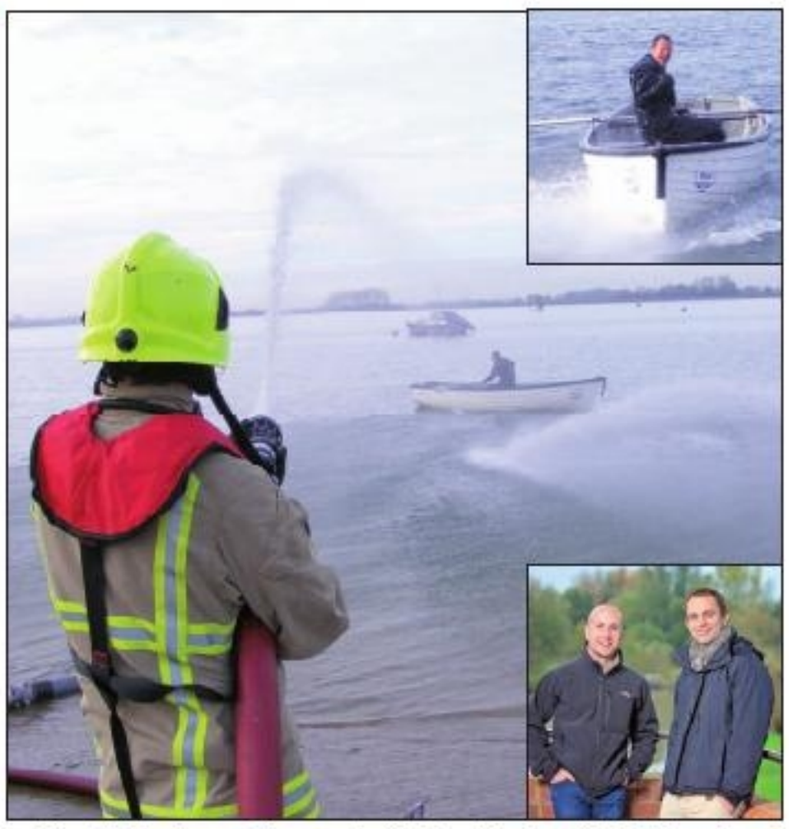
"It did simulate, to a certain extent, what it is going to be like because you can't see anything when you are being hit by water."

Darren's rowing partner, Alex, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008 and has since been running his own campaign, called 10 million metres where he has completed many endurance events.

The Great Pacific Race is from Monterey Bay, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii, approximately 2,700 miles, which can take between 35 to 70 days to complete.

For Darren and Alex there is also the incentive of breaking British and World records but raising awareness of Parkinson's disease and money for their chosen charities, Cure Parkinson's Trust and the Fire Fighters Charity is the underlying reason for taking on the challenge.

Darren added: "We're the only British pair involved, so as long as we finish we will be taking back a British record, but we didn't intend to just do that. We'd like to raise over £250,000 for our chosen charities. It's never been about 'look at us and what we're doing', we want people to come and join in and become a 'Pacific Row' family. Parkinson's doesn't seem to be holding Alex back and he's used it as a catalyst. We want people to be involved with us and spread this message."



• *A firefighter hoses Darren in the boat, before the latter gives the thumbs up (top). Bottom - Alex (left) and Darren.*

Darren and Alex, under their 'Row the Pacific 2014' banner, are holding a fundraising event at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford on February 22 as they look to raise £150,000 alone. Visit facebook.com/PacificRow2014.

MP's Corner

Andrew Smith
MP for Oxford East

Applying pressure after floods

RESIDENTS and businesses in Oxfordshire have started the year with heavy rains and the devastation of flooding, with extensive disruption caused by road closures, train delays, and a number of homes and businesses flooded. There are also issues in South Oxford where sewerage-contaminated water got into the groundwater and came up in people's lower level rooms and basements.

The flood prevention works which have already been undertaken in Oxford have certainly helped to prevent even greater loss and damage. Environment Agency, Council and Thames Water front-line staff working around the clock have also done a fantastic job, and local residents have pulled together to help one another out. But with Oxfordshire one of the few landlocked areas in the country to experience such devastating flooding, it is clear that much more needs to be done to improve and strengthen our flood defences going forward, to prevent the same thing happening again the next time we have an intensive period of rain.

Flooding in Oxford is now happening with a regularity that is the cause of untold human misery and unacceptable losses to local businesses. Those who have been affected by the flooding know only too well how failure to invest in flood defences can be a false economy, with the loss to businesses caused by the recent floods estimated to run to millions of pounds. With cuts to the government's budget since 2010, it is time that those controlling the purse strings wake up to the reality of this, and take urgent action to get the most effective flood protection possible.

One option being considered is a water relief channel to divert water from the city, which would run from the Seacourt Stream north of Botley Road to the River Thames at Sandford Lock. In the light of this flooding it clearly needs to be looked at again as a matter of urgency, and I have raised parliamentary questions on this. I shall be stepping up the pressure on the government and the Environment Agency, both to get the go-ahead for the water relief channel, and accelerate smaller scale measures to cut the risk of flooding. With the volumes of water which come through Oxford after intense rainfall, we are always going to be vulnerable to flooding risk. That is all the more reason to do everything possible to protect our community.

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PCSO taken to hospital after being run over

A PCSO was left hospitalised after being run over in Headington on January 15.

Around 4.35pm, the officer approached a man who appeared to be tampering with number plates on a vehicle.

When the offender saw the officer, he got into the vehicle, a five-door, black VW Golf, and reversed at speed into him.

The PCSO received minor injuries including cuts and bruises and was treated at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The driver was a white man, around 5ft 7ins tall, in his thirties or forties with ginger hair, a ginger beard and wearing a dark jacket.

Police are now appealing for any witnesses to the incident to come forward.

Officers would like to speak to a woman, thought to be in her fifties, who walked past with her Red Setter dog.

If you witnessed this incident, contact Det Sgt Maria Banks on 101.

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Feedback launches on Merton College plans

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

CONSULTATION is set to begin this evening on a new proposal to develop just under 300 student residences at Merton College.

McLaren Property and Merton College intend to submit a planning application for 294 student flats to Oxford City Council in March.

Public meetings will take place tonight between 6pm and 8pm and on Saturday between 10am and 1pm at the T.S.Eliot Theatre within Merton College.

The proposed building, off Manor Place, has been identified by the city council's adopted Sites and Housing Plan as an area which could potentially accommodate students from both Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University.

In total, 294 en-suite study rooms are planned for the site along with common areas, laundry rooms, cycle parking and outdoor amenity space.

The site is surrounded by listed buildings including the Grade I listed St Catherine's College.

Stuart Black from McLaren Property said: "It is very important for us to create a scheme which meets local need while respecting the rich heritage of the local area and the comfort of residents neighbouring the site.

"The plan reflects the requirements of Oxford's planning policy and helps to meet the growing local need for new student accommodation in the city."

McLaren Property and Merton College previously carried out a legal challenge against site-specific planning policy set out in the city council's Sites and Housing Plan.

However, both parties withdrew legal action in December last year.

A McLaren Property spokesperson added: "McLaren and Merton College are committed to help to meet the need for new student accommodation and are committed to working with Oxford City Council within the constraints of the planning policy.

Cllr Mark Mills, ward member for Holywell, said: "Oxford has a very tight housing supply.

"I think it's beneficial to increase the supply of whatever accommodation or housing is available.

New parking facilities for Blackbird Leys

BLACKBIRD Leys has become the second estate in Oxford to benefit from new parking facilities.

Eighteen parking spaces, including disabled bays, have been provided at the junction on Blackbird Leys Road and Balfour Road.

The scheme is to Highway standards with a block paving finish and raised kerbs.

New shrub beds and tree planting have also been added.

Areas that had been damaged by vehicle parking have also been reinstated.

Cllr Scott Seamons, board member for housing, said: "This project has provided not only parking spaces for residents on Blackbird Leys road but also improved the quality of the external environment in this area – the main entrance to the Leys.

"Alongside the new parking spaces, new hedges and trees have been planted and the remaining grass will be protected, the end result is much tidier. Through this investment we are increasing the number of purpose designed off-street parking spaces, a move welcomed by local residents and a common request in our consultations surrounding Leys Regeneration.

"We have identified a number of further areas in Blackbird Leys and across the city for additional parking though with today's financial pressures it will take time to deliver in all these areas."

The council says the next parking facilities project will be at Monks Close in Blackbird Leys later this month.

• *(Left to right) Ray Harris, Martin Smith, Doug Loveridge, Andy Whittington, Oliver Hearn and Shaun Hatton and, front, Cllr Scott Seamons*

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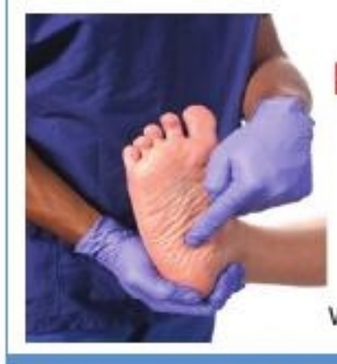

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Police crack down on illegal pesticide trade

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AN INITIATIVE looking into the distribution and use of illegal pesticides is now being investigated across the region.

Illegal pesticides, which can lead to crop failures, have been increasingly found across the country and in Europe.

Now, Thames Valley Police wish to investigate across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamsire and Berkshire, not just because of the risks the illegal distribution can pose to the rural communities but the links to organised crime gangs.

Under Operation Silo, Police also say there is growing evidence that the activity finances other serious crimes such as human trafficking and international terrorism.

Ch Supt Gilbert Houalla, head of Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships said: "Our job at the moment is to investigate to what level, if any, it is happening across the Thames Valley.

"We are working closely with the industry which is providing farmers and growers with advice to minimise the risks of buying and using illegal pesticides through the nationwide 'Watch Out' campaign.

"This type of crime is very difficult to identify and spot happening and receiving intelligence will be a vital part of our investigation, which is where members of the public and more importantly, members of the rural and farming community and pesticide industry will come in."

People are being asked to look out for things such as how the product looks or smells, if they have been offered a product described as the same as another but at a discounted rate, or if they have been sold an item because the first choice was out of stock.

The Health and Safety Executive say that a report in 2011 stated that 10 per cent of pesticides used across Europe were counterfeit with that figure now rising to 15 per cent.

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld added: "This is a serious aspect of rural crime which I have made a priority.

"The illegal sale of counterfeit pesticides is a threat to all through the food chain, as well as to wildlife."

By Joan! Duo cut cake for home's first birthday

AN IFFLEY care home celebrated its first birthday on Friday, with residents enjoying a slice of cake to mark the occasion.

Joan Brown, 100, was joined by 96-year-old Joan Critchley to mark the milestone birthday, as she was given the honour of cutting the cake.

The pair were two of the first residents to move into the Sanctuary Care Home last year.

"I am well looked after here and the staff are all very kind," said Joan Brown.

"They work very hard and will do anything you want.

"My room is so comfortable and everyone is very friendly – time goes so quickly."

Home manager Pam Harper said: "This was such a special day for our residents, their loved ones and the team here at Iffley Residential and Nursing Home.

"We have only been open a year but in that time we have not only created a home for the incredible people who live here, but truly feel part of a wonderful community.

"Thank you to the people of Iffley who have made us feel so welcome."

• *Joan Brown and Joan Critchley cut the cake*

Technology funds boost for police

THAMES Valley Police has been handed £1.6million in funding to improve the use of technology in the detection and investigation of crime.

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld submitted the bids to the Home Office to help improve the service offered to victims of crime.

The successful bids will see officers equipped with mobile technology, enabling them to access key operational systems while out on patrol as well as capture electronic witness signatures. There will also be additional body worn video cameras and funding to create 'digital case files' which can be accessed by the CPS.

Other improvements are tools to enhance the Force's ability to analyse information on social media platforms and more funding to establish the use of a voluntary GPS tracking of prolific and priority offenders while a joint bid with Hampshire Constabulary will improve, enhance and develop multiple channels for customer contact.

Mr Stansfeld said: "This additional funding in innovative technology will greatly assist us in our mission to reduce crime."

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Science centre 'could still go ahead' - CEO

TV's Paddy meets slimmers

TWO lucky ladies from Headington got the chance to cuddle up to comedian and TV star Paddy McGuinness.

Val Neame and Hayley Walsh met Paddy at the annual Slimming World Awards.

The event was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

Val, who runs Slimming World groups in Carterton and Bicester said: "Obviously the most important thing of all is that the group have lost weight and improved their health throughout 2013.

• *Val Neame and Hayley Walsh meet Paddy McGuiness.*

"I'm so proud of all of my members – many of them have achieved their target weights and been able do things they never thought possible before slimming down."

Hayley, who runs a Slimming World group in Headington, added: "By making small easy changes to the way our members shop, cook and eat and getting support to overcome the challenges they face along the way, they see a big difference on the scales, a big difference to the way they feel, and a big smile on their face."

Paddy was full of praise for the work they have done in changing people's lifestyles for the better.

"Before I started working in comedy I was a fitness instructor so I know how important it is to look after yourself, but equally I know it's not always easy to motivate yourself," he said.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

SCIENCE Oxford's CEO says there may still be an opportunity to build a planetarium despite plans for a £35million science centre in the city being scrapped.

The Magnet was set to become the UK's first integrated Science Discovery and Innovation Centre.

However, after submitting a planning application in April last year, Science Oxford, the face of the Oxford Trust, has decided that "its ambitions for The Magnet are no longer feasible".

The development, designed by Fosters & Partners, was set to be a showcase for science and technology and situated next to Oxford's Castle Mound, meaning the demolition of the Register Office and Macclesfield House.

In a statement the charity said: "Restrictions limiting the use of the site and the changing costs of the development mean that delivering and funding a project that we and the city would be proud of has become increasingly difficult."

• *Plans have been scrapped for a £35million planetarium on the Mound in Oxford city centre*

Steve Burgess, chief executive of Science Oxford, added: "No project of this size is without its challenges.

"Restrictions limiting the use of the site and the changing costs of the development since its initiation in 2008 mean that delivering and funding a project that we and the city would be proud of has become increasingly difficult."

Science Oxford had considered dropping designs for a planetarium, which was hailed to be the heart of The Magnet, after heritage groups claimed it would spoil views of the mound.

Mr Burgess added there may still be an opportunity for a planetarium.

"A planetarium would be a great asset for the county, whether that be in Oxford or further afield," he said.

"There may be an opportunity to pursue the idea of a planetarium in the future, as part of an integrated science centre, but this would need to be done in partnership with other organisations and collaborators who share the same vision as the Oxford Trust."

There could be some development at the Oxford Centre for Innovation which currently houses 25 companies and employs around 200 people.

News Bites

House burgled

A LARGE amount of cash was stolen in a burglary at a Kennington home on January 15.

Between 11.30am and 6.30pm, offenders entered a property in Otters Reach, by smashing a rear window in the conservatory, and stole the cash after searching first floor bedrooms.

Stay careful

DRIVERS are being urged to be extra careful on the roads as temperatures begin to plummet.

The county council's Fire and Rescue Service's Road Safety team wants motorists to take care while driving, ensure windows are completely demisted and that items such as an ice-scraper and torch are on board. Stopping distances on untreated icy roads are 10 times more than on dry highways while visibility can be reduced.

Nominate now

BUSINESSES and traders in and around Oxford can now nominate themselves for a national award.

Localtraders.com has launched the UK Trade Awards 2014 and the winners will be announced in December.

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Taking the show to the Max

Feeling groovy

BLUES group Brothers Groove perform in Oxford on Monday, as part of a Haven Club gig at The Bullingdon on Cowley Road.

Shaun Hill, Nigel Mellor, Deano and Wayne Proctor are on stage at 8.30pm, and tickets cost £8. Go to www.havenclub.co.uk.

The story of the 2011 riots

A multimedia show created as a response to the riots of August 2011 is staged at the North Wall Theatre tonight, telling the heartbreaking, surprising and challenging stories of that year.

Written and performed by Bernadette Russell and Gareth Brierley, 366 Days of Kindness is part storytelling, part stand-up and part live documentary.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £13. Go to www.thenorthwall.com or call 01865 319450 to book.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

FOUR-PIECE rock group Max Raptor return to Oxford on Wednesday, following the release of their latest album 'Mother's Ruin'.

Made up of vocalist Wil Ray, bass guitarist Matt Stevenson, guitar player Ben Winnington and drummer Pete Reisner, the group have been performing together since 2006, previously appearing at Oxfordshire's Truck Festival last year.

They have toured extensively in recent years with acts including Billy Talent, The Darkness and Dinosaur Pile Up, and will playing a mix of new songs and classic tunes at their upcoming show.

"We're playing a new set, some songs off the album we haven't played which should be quite cool," said Matt.

"The thing is we can't make it too different because we haven't played in Oxford for a while, so it's going to be really nice to get back there and see what happens.

"But it's going really well so far, and it's nice in January to get out there and play every town."

• *Max Raptor make their long-awaited return to Oxford on Wednesday*

Max Raptor released their debut mini-album 'Portraits' in 2011, while 'Mother's Ruin' came out last year.

Matt added: "The reaction to it has been really positive.

"We were of the mindset that we didn't want to change too much, we were really happy with Portraits working with Dan Weller, who's such a great producer.

"That's why we went back to Dan because our sound has evolved a little bit, but I think working with Dan, who is a good friend of ours, there was synergy between the two albums.

"That came across really well, and the fans have picked up on that but it's still very much a Max Raptor album."

Wednesday's show takes place at the O2 Academy, and doors open at 7pm. For more information, call 0844 477 2000 or go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

All going wrong

WEST End smash hit comedy The Play That Goes Wrong comes to the Oxford Playhouse from Monday, following the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's attempts to stage a 1920s murder mystery.

As they try to stage the play, however, everything goes wrong, but the actors battle on to get their final curtain call.

Eight shows are scheduled up until February 1, and tickets start from £21.50. To book, call 01865 305305 or go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

Let's improvise

SIXTEEN performers take up an improvisation challenge at the Pegasus Theatre today and next Thursday, in Whose Crown Is It Anyway?

The performers have been on an intense training course, where their spontaneous responses in the two shows will earn them points with the highest scorer being rewarded. Both shows begin at 8pm, and it costs £8 to enter.

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Oxford's own Eden project

Comedy tribute

Recreating some of the finest moments from Morecambe and Wise, Eric and Little Ern come to the Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday.

The show is performed by Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens, who recreate classic television and stage moments as well as using their own material.

Tickets cost £17.50, and the show starts at 8pm. More details are available at www.cornerstone-arts.org, or by phoning 01235 515144.

Guns 2 Roses

A tribute act to Guns N Roses, said to be the biggest of its kind for the group, performs at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre tomorrow evening.

Guns 2 Roses have played to thousands of fans across the world, and are supported in this show by young rock quintet Voodoo Vegas.

Tickets cost £16, and begins at 8pm. Go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk or call 01295 297002 to book.

OXFORD'S Old Fire Station's first art exhibition of the year is underway, featuring the work of studio artist Jack Eden.

Jack has divided up the gallery into an x axis and a y axis, which he has used as a way of calculating and understanding the architecture of the space.

One axis separates the floor space into two, while the second, that measures the height of the gallery, acts as an architectural pillar and a totemic industrial sculpture.

His artwork focuses on the dialogue between sculptural material and the simplicity of geometric forms, and looks at how one can affect the other.

Speaking about his exhibition, Jack said: "I'm really excited about this show for lots of reasons.

"Having spent so much time working at the Old Fire Station, it's great to be able to show my work in a space I feel so comfortable in.

"I feel like I've had a lot of time to consider the space and develop this idea with the sort of freedom rarely afforded to someone who's so recently graduated.

"I'm also really looking forward to exploiting the gallery's height – no one's really taken full advantage of the height, so I'm glad to be the first!"

Gallery manager Emily Marston said: "Jack's work is completely different from what we had at the end of last year so it's great to see such a contrast that takes full advantage of the gallery space.

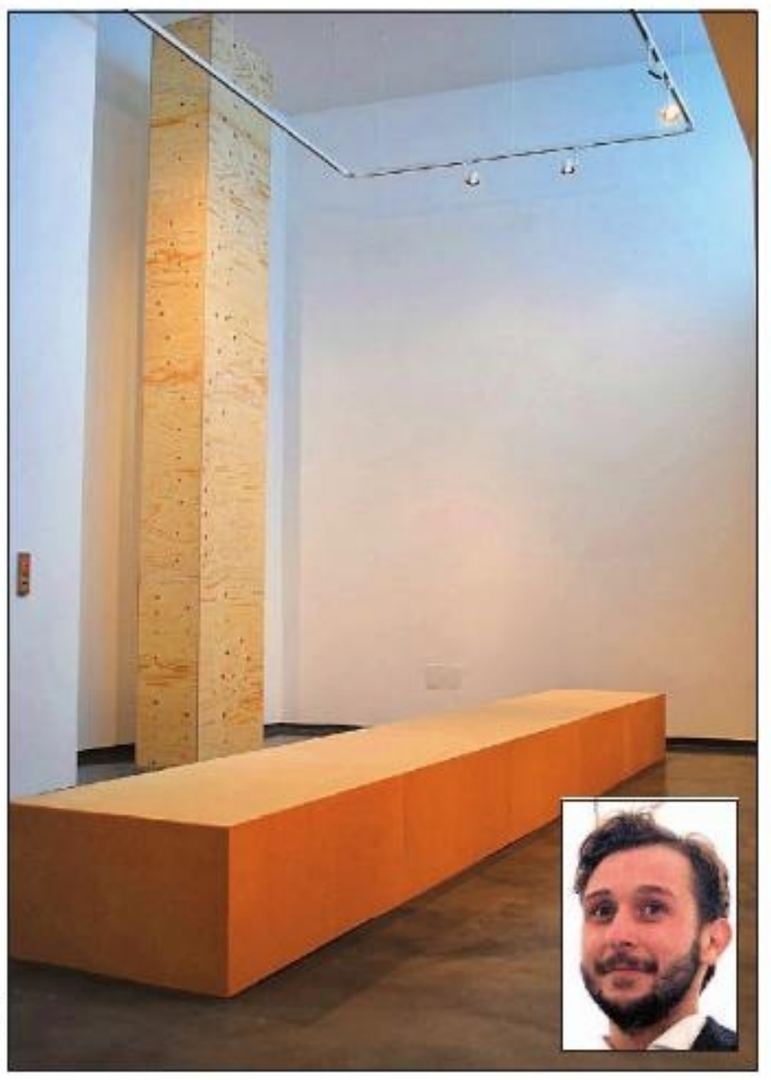
"It is also wonderful to be able to give an artist we've worked with for so long the opportunity to exhibit and develop their practice."

The exhibition is running now until February 15, with Jack giving a talk about his work on Saturday at 2pm.

For more details, go to www.oldfirestation.org.uk.

Alternatively, phone 01865 263980.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



• *The Old Fire Station is set up for the exhibition and (inset) Jack Eden*

Over to the Darkside...

Pink Floyd tribute band Darkside are at the Chipping Norton Theatre on Saturday, covering a broad range of classic songs from the early Syd Barrett music to the more iconic anthems.

Songs include 'Dark Side of the Moon', 'Animals', and 'Wish You Were Here', and is accompanied with a laser light show.

It starts at 7.45pm, and costs £15.

To book, phone 01608 642350 or go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

Marvellous!

Henley College are staging 'A Marvellous Night' tonight, which sees over 30 students perform a special concert named after Van Morrison's 'Moondance', which the Big Band will be playing.

It takes place at the Kenton Theatre from 7.30pm, and all tickets cost £5. More information can be found at www.kentontheatre.co.uk.

Entertainment

To advertise in this section please call **01235 511700**. To place a free event listing email the details to **whatson@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk**

23 January, 8pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
366 DAYS OF KINDNESS
Part storytelling, part stand-up, part live documentary, featuring a dinner party with surprise guests including the Dalai Lama, Liam Neeson and Princess Diana, this show attempts to answer the question: is it possible to change the world just by being kind?
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Gemma Moss
21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers
22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112"
www.gappytooth.com

25 January
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland,Âós great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 January, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free,Ä¶ But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell,Âós modern classic.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January - 3 March, 10am - 6pm
Aidan Meller Gallery, 14 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AS
QUEEN VICTORIA'S ARTISTS
Celebrating the dreamy Classical qualities and 'Art for Art's Sake' works of Alma Tadema, Frederick Leighton and John Everett Millais.
01865 250 550/www.aidanmeller.com

27 January - 1 February
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: £11 to £26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

29 January, 7:30pm
St Margaret's Church, Oxford
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
A story concert from the acclaimed band Casa Margarita: tales and music from Seville. Classical and folk music by De Falla, Granados, Rodrigo Lorca and others. In St. Margaret, Church. Tickets £12.50/£10.50 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticket-soxford
www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

31 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
Bernard d'Ascoli offers a delightful programme of piano works.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

31 January, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
ALAN AYCKBOURN
Tickets: £9 discounts £7
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 February, 7:29pm - 11pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
MASH MARATHON
The annual M@SH Marathon returns, bringing its unique brand of innovative music-making to the JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

1 February, 9am - 11am
Abingdon Baptist Church Hall
JUMBLE SALE AND CAKE STALL
Jumble, clothes, books, DVD's, toys, games, puzzles, bric-a-brac. home made cakes.
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2 February, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
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www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

2 February
Orchard Centre, Didcot
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3 February - 8 February
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AYCKBOURN ENSEMBLE
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

3 February - 3 March, 10am - 6pm
Aidan Meller Gallery, 105 High Street, Oxford
OXFORD THE RISE OF PARIS
Lifting the lid on the extraordinary creative power of Paris at the beginning of the 20th Century.
www.aidanmeller.com

3 February - 3 March
Aidan Meller Gallery 14 Broad Street, Oxford
OXFORD - THE HIGH VICTORIAN AESTHETIC
Celebrating the dreamy Classical qualities and 'Art for Art's Sake' works of Alma Tadema, Frederick Leighton and John Everett Millais.
01865 250 550

6 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BLINK
This is the tale of Jonah and Sophie. Its a love story. A dysfunctional love story, but a love story all the same.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

7 February - 9 February, 11am - 5pm
Oxford Town Hall
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR
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Sat 8th Feb: 11.00-17.00 Free Entry
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www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com
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8 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
CREDIBLE LIKEABLE SUPERSTAR ROLE MODEL
In an audacious, provocative protest against flagrant global attempts to sexualise and commodify childhood for profit, award-winning artist Bryony Kimmings and her niece Taylor, nine, decided to play the global tween machine at its own game by inventing dinosaur-loving, bike riding, tuna pasta-eating, alternative pop star Catherine Bennett.
Tickets: £13, £11 concessions
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

8 February, 7pm
Corn Exchange Wallingford
DIGITAL SHOWING OF TOP GUN
A fund-raiser for the Cholsey Treehouse School.
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01491 825000

9 February, 7:30pm
Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon
CASA MARGARITA PRESENTS MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
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Phone: 0773 344 8279
Email: margarita@casa-margarita.co.uk
More information:
www.casa-margarita.co.uk

12 February, 7pm - 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
A NOVEMBER DAY
In forgotten boxes in an attic, a woman discovers the story of her grandfather, a survivor of the First World War, and his unexpected encounter with a stray dog who knew no boundaries.
With evocative puppet characters, live music and an ever-changing set, this is a timeless fable on war and the miracle of friendship when all else seems lost. "
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

13 February, 7pm - 8:30pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
ROBIN MICHAEL (CELLO) & DANIEL TONG (PIANO)
Michael & Tong perform Brahms cello sonatas
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

13 February - 14 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR
Armed with music, killer heels and a lethal troop of divas, an enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, persecution, aggression and love. With shrapnel-sharp voices and moves as smooth as an oiled tank-chain, this cabaret troop invites you on a journey into the core of a conflicted Jewish state.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

14 February, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK:
The East Oxford Archaeology Project: Bartlemas Leper Hospital, Littlemore Priory and archaeological landscapes East of Oxford'
by Jane Harrison. She will be talking about the discoveries made by the East Oxford Archaeology Project, and in particular about exciting excavations uncovering more about medieval Oxford, at St Bartholomew's Leper Hospital and the Priory of St Nicholas. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

15 February, 10am - 12pm
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www.tvoc.org.uk/saturday-series

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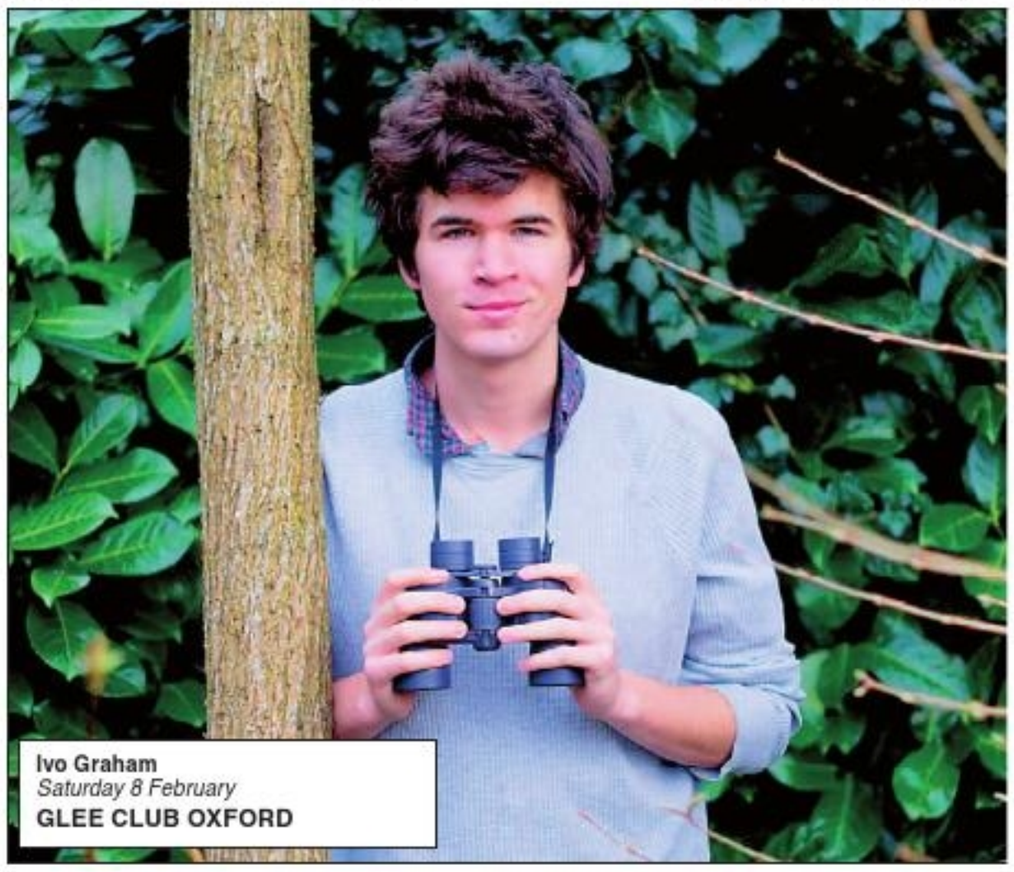

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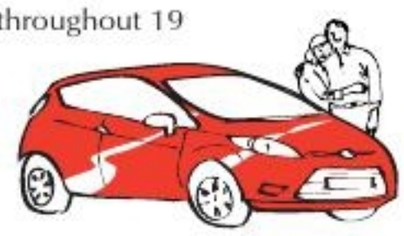

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Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
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	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Employments (11)
9 Pin (3)
10 Present (9)
11 Social rank (5)
13 Egyptian beetles (7)
14 Merchant ship (6)
16 Mendicant (6)
18 Picture to oneself (7)
19 Attain (5)
20 Treading roughly under foot (9)
21 Plan (3)
22 Commemorating festively (11)

Quick Clues Down

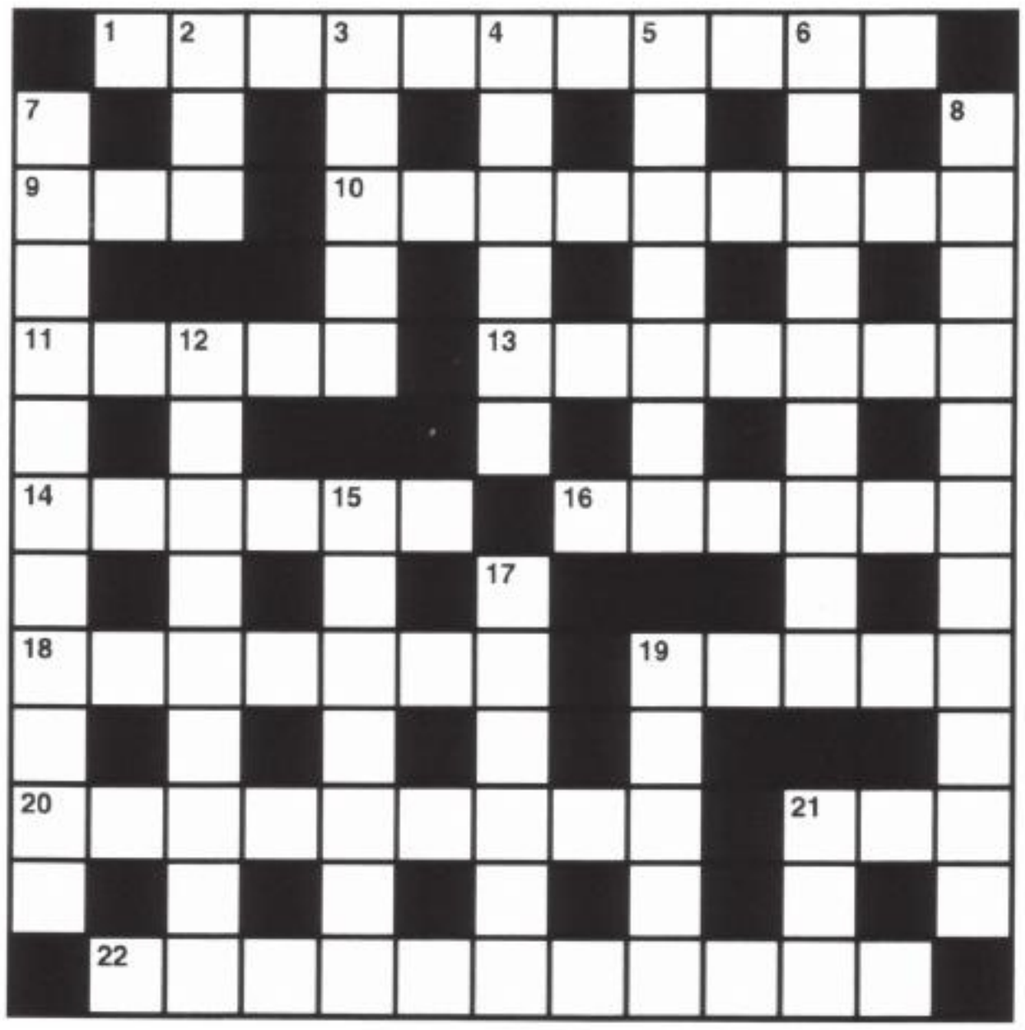
2 Tooth on wheel (3)
3 Fixed quantities (5)
4 Bear witness (6)
5 Early period of history (4,3)
6 Severe nerve pain (9)
7 Experts (11)
8 Critical literary examination (11)
12 Make worse (9)
15 Paint in dots (7)
17 Older (6)
19 Correct (5)
21 Males (3)

Cryptic Clues Across

1 His is a professional stick-up (5-6)
9 Strange drink (3)
10 Their understanding is 100% (9)
11 Force the little devil to join the Spaniard (5)
13 They are certainly absorbing (7)
14 Creatures of spirit (6)
16 Perhaps never include a point of superficial refinement (6)
18 Henry's the one for spoils (7)
19 Lightweight animal (5)
20 Scheme against the maniac maybe (9)
21 Nothing at grass? (3)
22 Declares the fool always gets a setback (11)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Am to include single purpose (3)
3 Surpass 10 and 50 by the sound of it (5)
4 Just the ones in the height (6)
5 Number one part stinks (7)
6 Will it never grow old? (9)
7 Scandal to be in tears over the disgrace (6,5)
8 They are no snakes in the grass (3-8)
12 Draws out professional leaflets (9)
15 Where the skater is on dubious ground (4,3)
17 Oriental condition of property (6)
19 Musical work period (5)
21 Gold sounds an alternative (3)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Branches 4 Crew 8 Sordid 10 Cellos 11 Medal 12 Camel 14 Repent 17 Designers 18 Anchovies 22 Cosset 23 Annul 24 Deals 26 Feared 27 Seemly 28 Lost 29 Mattered

Down: 1 Bust 2 Abroad 3 Chimes 5 Relies 6 Washtubs 7 Melee 9 Delighted 10 Carnivals 13 Means 15 Preen 16 Fanciful 18 Asians 19 Cedes 20 Insect 21 Summer 25 Dyed

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Strapped 4 Odds 8 Reigns 10 Italic 11 Chime 12 Genie 14 Prague 17 Dalliance 18 Alleviate 22 Censor 23 Event 24 Verne 26 Doused 27 Trauma 28 Gold 29 Sleepers

Down: 1 Spry 2 Raised 3 Pencil 5 Deluge 6 Sickened 7 Stern 9 Sheltered 10 Impatient 13 Nails 15 Acute 16 Watchdog 18 Annual 19 Lover 20 Averse 21 Endure 25 Mass

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WIN tickets to see The Selecter!

ICONIC Ska Legends, The Selecter have announced that they will celebrate their 35th anniversary with an extensive 26-date UK tour in February, March and April 2014, performing their seminal debut album 'Too Much Pressure' in its entirety for the first time ever, and lucky reader is going to win tickets to their gig at O2 Academy in Oxford on March 9!

Released on the legendary 2-Tone label, 'Too Much Pressure' was a Top 5 selling album featuring a host of timeless classics, including 'Three Minute Hero', 'Missing Words' and course 'Too Much Pressure' - all of which were released on Top 40 charting singles.

The Too Much Pressure 35th Anniversary Tour will also feature an extended encore of hits and live favorites from across The Selecter's extensive 35-year spanning back catalogue, including their debut Top 10 smash hit, 'On My Radio' right up to the this year's critically acclaimed 'String Theory'.

Closing date

Friday, February 14

Pauline Black says, "We thought our 35th anniversary would be the perfect time to revisit our very first album Too Much Pressure and perform it in full...for the very first time! We can't wait to get on the road to bring our message of multiculturalism from across 4 decades to venues up and down the land. See you there!"

The past few years have seen a huge resurgence in the popularity of The Selecter, with new material being released alongside a relentless touring schedule which has taken the band play numerous gigs and festivals across Europe, undertake no less than 3 trips to the USA (including being picked as the Desert Sun's highlight of the 2013 Coachella festival) and even performing as far afield as Australia and Canada.

To be a part of this and see The Selecter live all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q WHICH RECORD LABEL WAS *TOO MUCH PRESSURE* ORIGINALLY RELEASED ON?

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Age of Pupils 3 - 13
Sex of pupils Boys & Girls
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Founded 1947
Entry requirements As a non selective school, we do not ask prospective pupils to sit an entrance exam.
Curriculum Our broad, balanced curriculum enable children to develop lively and enquiring young minds and he curriculum allows for differentiation within year groups.
Extra-curricular activities We offer fantastic co-curricular opportunities ranging from traditional sports such as cricket, netball, tennis and hockey to other sports including fencing, sailing, horse riding and archery.
Food and nutrition All food is prepared for by our in-house catering department and we can cater for a wide range of dietary requirements.
Schools philosophy We provide a nurturing yet challenging school environment which ably prepares children for life's journey. Our secure and friendly learning environment inspires individual excellence and ensures that children progress to their chosen

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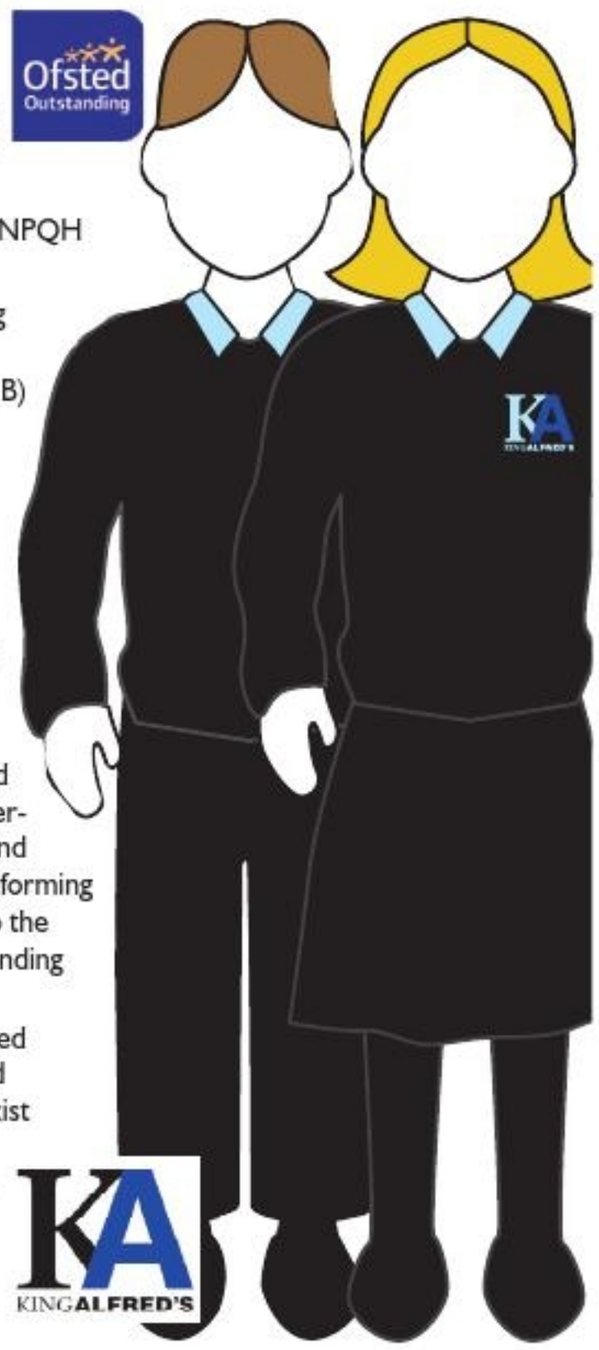

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Head of School Jo Halliday BSc Hons DipM NPQH
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School's Philosophy The Academy's continued success is centred on outstanding teaching and learning and the excellent relationships that exist between students, staff, parents and our community. King Alfred's believes that active learning is the key to academic success, along with the breadth of educational opportunities offered beyond the classroom.
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Head Teacher Mr N. Seward
Sex of pupils Boys and Girls **Age of pupils** 11-18
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Entrance Requirement We accept pupils of average ability and better. Very able pupils benefit from the specialist input of Octagon, our academic society. All pupils receive just the right balance of challenge and encouragement to help them reach their full academic potential.
Campus Most first time visitors to the school experience the 'wow' factor as they turn into our grounds and make their way along the main drive. We are surrounded by our stunning 96 acre site and delightful rolling Cotswold countryside. We also lie just a short walk from Kingham, 'England's favourite village'.
Extra-curricular We recognise that there is more to life than academic study. Kingham Hill has open access to a whole range of activities both on campus and further afield, which enhances the all-round development of our pupils. These include a wide range of clubs and many other occasional recreational opportunities.
We also encourage our pupils to get involved in community service, charity work and charity fundraising.
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KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL

Prep list: Do's and don'ts for parents

• Start planning early
Choose the secondary school or schools you would like your child to attend and work backwards: which is the best pre-prep or nursery, prep or primary school to get there? Choose a school that suits your child, not your ambitions.

• Do your homework
Learn about prospective schools for your child and visit, visit, visit. You should be looking seriously by the time your child is eight or nine years old.

• Get involved
Take an interest in what your child is learning and make yourself familiar with the types of tests set by schools. But don't bore your child to death – they can't spend all evening doing practice papers.

• Prepare your child
Prepare your child for interview but beware of coaching. If you do, your child may come out with something painful, like: "Mummy and Daddy told me to say I was a perfectionist."

• Consider tutoring
Think about hiring a private tutor if, say, your child is going for entrance to an independent day school or grammar school. But don't turn your child's life into a miserable round of nonstop coaching.

• Stay calm
Do not convey the stress you feel to your child, particularly at exam time. Your attitude should be that your child is applying to three or four wonderful schools and you would be happy with any of them.

What schools must publish on their website

Schools must put on their website: how much money they get from taking underprivileged children (the 'pupil premium'), what they do with it and the effect it's had
· details of the curriculum
· admission criteria
· behaviour policy
· special educational needs policy
· policy on disability
· links to Ofsted reports
· links to performance data
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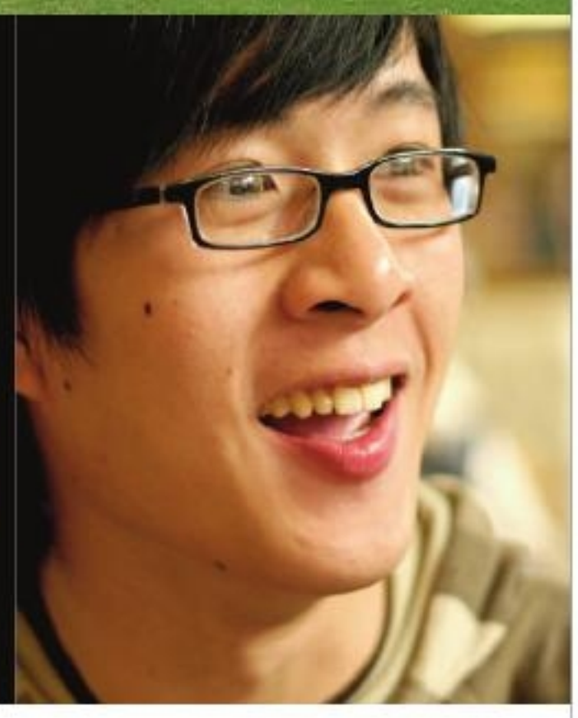

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Film of the week

Advertising Feature

Coen brothers do it again

By **Damon Smith**

IN a year littered with terrific films and eye-catching performances, one or two gems were always going to be short-changed at the Academy Awards nominations.

Few could have predicted that Joel and Ethan Coen, who won four golden statuettes for No Country For Old Men and Fargo, would be among those casualties when they were armed with this delightful and artfully composed comedy drama.

Admittedly, Inside Llewyn Davis moves to its own soft beat, the colour palette is earthy and the humour dry rather than laugh-out-loud funny. But the script is peppered with polished one-liners, the direction elegant and performances are exemplary.

Every frame beautifully harks back to the Greenwich Village folk scene of the early 1960s.

Like the central character, essayed by Oscar Isaac who should have usurped Christian Bale on the Oscars shortlist, the Coens' film has been unfairly overshadowed.

Isaac plays the eponymous musician, who has yet to recover from the suicide of his singing partner. He ricochets from one gig to the next, begging for temporary refuge on the couches of friends including Mitch Gorfein (Ethan Phillips) and his wife Lillian (Robin Bartlett).

By accident, Llewyn lets out the Gorfeins' cat and he embarks on a mission to track down the feline before his hosts notice the animal is missing.

Thankfully, Llewyn locates the animal but since he is unable to return it to the locked apartment, the singer-songwriter takes his four-legged nemesis to the flat of friends Jim (Justin Timberlake) and Jean (Carey Mulligan), who are also a singing duo.

Jean's frustrations with Llewyn soon boil over.

"Everything you touch turns to s*** - like King Midas's idiot brother!" she seethes, eventually revealing the source of her ire.

Llewyn still crashes at Jean and Jim's flat, with a cheery Army recruit and aspiring folk singer called Troy Nelson (Stark Sands).

"Did you meet Elvis?" enquires Oscar casually.

"No, I did not meet Private Presley," Troy crisply responds.

When the Gorfeins' cat escapes for a second time, Llewyn resigns himself to telling them the horrible truth and heads to Chicago for an important audition in the company of drug-addicted jazz musician Roland Turner (John Goodman) and his driver Johnny Five (Garrett Hedlund).

Interspersed with musical performances by the cast, Inside Llewyn Davis is another offbeat character study from the Coens proving what goes around, comes around.

Isaac is terrific, weathering each outrageous misfortune with the same look of mournful resignation, while Mulligan plays effectively against type as a feisty independent woman, who isn't afraid to speak her mind.

Colourful supporting performances provide bookmarks for Llewyn's journey of self-discovery and the cat, which lands the protagonist in trouble, inevitably provides one of the film's comical highpoints.

Inside Llewyn Davis

RELEASED: January 24

RATING: 15

RUNTIME: 105 mins

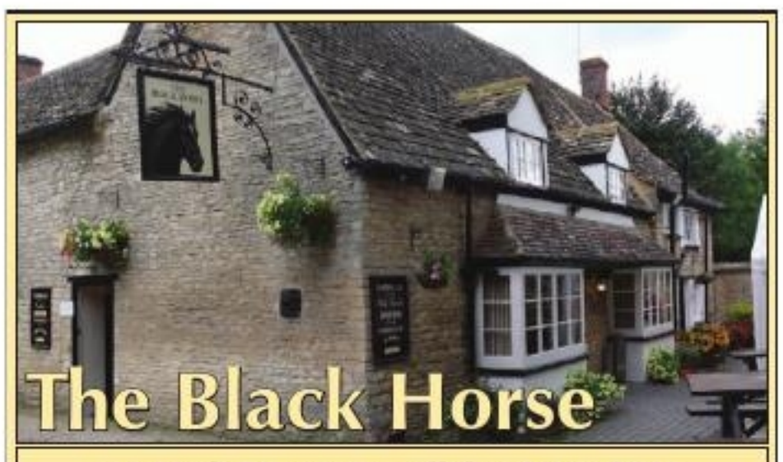
Comedy/Drama/Musical/Romance

STARING: Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan, Justin Timberlake, John Goodman, Garrett Hedlund, Ethan Phillips, Robin Bartlett, Jeanine Serralles, Adam Driver, Stark Sands.

DIRECTORS: Joel & Ethan Coen.

- Swearing
- Sex
- Violence

• *Oscar Isaac (Llewyn Davis), Justin Timberlake (Jim Berkey) and Adam Driver (Al Cody). Picture credit: PA Photo/Studio Canal.*



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Horoscopes

By Cassandra Nye

Your life in the stars

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)
This is a month of adventures and high ideals. A sharp and incisive mind runs ahead of you, ready to make the most of opportunities. Travel is likely as you look for something that seems to be missing in your life. You find it nearer to home than you thought possible. Even so, being somewhere new will fire your imagination and grow new ideas.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)
The presence of Mercury the messenger is weaker now. Take care what you ask for and what you say. Colleagues in particular may be very sensitive. New friendships may be on offer. You need to curb your tendency to be mistrustful. There is much to gain and not much to lose in this area at the moment. Be prepared to give someone the benefit of the doubt.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
Social life should be positively buzzing this week, Aries. Accept invitations because, between now and the end of the month, you could come into contact with someone very special. Libra and Mars combine to enhance your creativity. Your imagination works overtime when a proposition is made midweek. Should you accept or take the tried and tested path? It's over to you!

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)
Are all of those plans and dreams now seeming more real? They should be, Taurus! As Mercury brings clarity and enlightenment to communications, you know exactly what to do. The trick now is to tie everything together and not leave any loose ends. Indeed, all important communication needs to be done before the end of the month if possible. Check the small print.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
A wonderful aspect between Mercury and Venus brings your charm to the forefront. Any transactions, be they business or personal, will benefit from this period. Make the most of the feeling of being in the right place at the right time. Having to rethink finances may mean stepping up in your career or even making long-term changes. You certainly won't be in a rut!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Ongoing plans and aspects of last year are trailing you still. The good news is that any loose ends can now be tied up. Progress can be made into the future in a practical way. Mercury gives you the communication skills needed to sort out finances and the right place to live. This may seem at odds with a strong spiritual feeling that also runs through the month.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)
Mars stirs up passions both at home and in business. However, Mercury gives you the ability to explain your hopes, although you are not yet ready to discuss your dreams! Something may stop you or give you doubt about making a commitment. Listen to your instincts even if they are at odds with your heart. A change in direction does not have to mean a change of partner.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)
Work and romance seem to go hand-in-hand as this week begins. An office romance may mean that you are being asked to take a decision. Perhaps your partner is suspicious of your motives. Being honest may mean delaying making any statement at all. With finances on your mind there may be bigger fish to fry. Next month things ease up on the love front. Is it worth waiting?

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)
The month is peppered with the influence of Mercury, helping your messages to come out loud and clear. Because of this and a strong wave of creativity, people in authority would be advised to listen to you. Are you about to invent something wonderful? Does inspiration jazz up your love life? Simply enjoy this week, Libra. You should be in your element.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)
Family and neighbourhood activities still dominate much of your free time. This is a continuation of efforts made at the end of last year. Mercury the messenger is giving you a helping hand with communications but you do need to stay sharp. Small decisions need your attention before they become big questions. A new idea, if seen through, could bring you more independence.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)
Local activities are still taking up much of your spare time. These are enjoyable but something is asking you to get serious. Could this be the voice of reason asking you not to dream so much? Possibly. Keep things practical. If you really need to go in a certain direction, Sagittarius, do not rule out other paths that you may take later. Be flexible when necessary.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)
Being absolutely at your best feels good. Charm oozes from every pore and your mind is as sharp as a knife. Being up-front about your ambitions makes it clear to others that you are not going to sit on the sidelines. You will aim to make the most of any situation, especially if it means making some extra cash. Important communications should be shared before the month's end.

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Green fingers

Advertising Feature

The 'no dig' approach

Taking the spade work out of veg growing

By **Hannah Stephenson**

EACH autumn, there's a collective, nationwide groan as gardeners think about the endless digging they'll be doing over winter to improve their soil's condition for the following year.

But Charles Dowding, renowned market gardener and expert vegetable grower, can offer them some good news.

Over the years, he has conducted many experiments comparing the effect on plant growth of digging with not digging and has found that a 'no-dig' approach is the way to go. It not only saves time and exertion on digging, but also on weeding, because far fewer weeds grow on undisturbed soil.

He insists that growth and quality are improved by simply covering beds with 2.5-5cm (1-2in) of compost over the surface.

"The usual recommendation is to dig or even double dig the soil for growing vegetables," he says. "Because this is repeated so many times, most gardeners accept the task without wondering if it is really necessary. In fact, there is no need to dig at all."

Initial clearance of weedy and grassy ground can mostly be achieved with mulches (such as cardboard and compost) and some digging out of woody plants, then you can maintain the plot by weeding regularly. Surface compost weathers to a soft mulch over winter and can be directly sown or planted into, he adds.

"Soil does not need to be mixed, stirred, scraped or tickled. Only large lumps of organic matter on top require some knocking around with a fork or rake to create an even surface, mostly in winter and spring."

Dowding has run an experiment since 2007 to understand the effect on soil of digging and not digging, comparing growth of the same vegetables growing side by side in dug and undug beds.

"In the absence of digging, I have found that harvests are as high, sometimes higher, while some extra quality of growth on undug soil may be apparent.

"Soil in the undug beds, with compost on its surface, is well-drained, retains more moisture in dry springs and grows fewer weeds and stronger vegetables, especially at the start of the season," he explains in his new book Veg Journal, which offers month-by-month no-dig advice.

A key point in the no-dig approach is that undug soil is firm, which is not the same as compacted; roots have freedom to travel and are well-anchored at the same time.

"Fertility is enhanced by an increase of undisturbed soil life, which mobilises nutrients and helps plant roots to access them," he continues. "This is most noticeable in early spring, when growth on undug soil is generally faster by comparison with dug soil, whose fertility, in terms of soil life, is still recovering from the winter digging."

He says that firm soil is often wrongly labelled as 'compacted', yet soil which has been mechanically loosened and fluffed up is not stable, which is why you have to walk on planks after digging heavy soil to avoid compaction.

Compacted soil is squishy when wet, rock-like when dry, contains few or no worm channels, is hard to crumble in your hand and may smell sulphurous because of lack of oxygen. It usually happens in the top 15-20cm (6-8in) of the surface and if it does, he advises adding plenty of organic matter.

He concludes: "My advice is simple: disturb your soil as little as possible."

• *Charles Dowding raising beds. Raising beds can ease digging. Picture credit: PA Photo/ Handout.*

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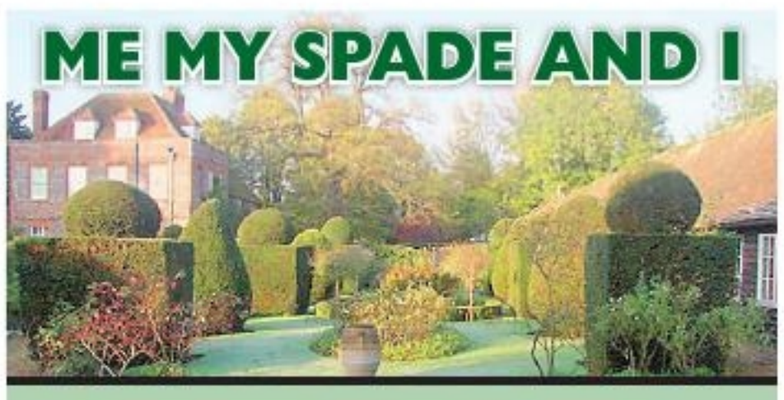

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New Fiat 500L Trekking boasts a more rugged dimension

It's a great multi-tasker

BUILDING on the success of the recently launched 500L small MPV, Fiat has now added this Trekking variant to the range.

This model's beefed up bumpers, lower-body cladding and raised ground clearance adds a more rugged crossover look.

The 500L has already been awarded a five-star safety rating by Euro NCAP, but the 500LTrekking is the first Fiat to feature City Brake Control (a low speed collision avoidance system) as standard.

There are four engine options: 1.4-litre Fire petrol and the 875cc TwinAir Turbo, plus the 1.3 (with manual and automatic transmissions) and 1.6-litre MultiJet 2 turbo diesel.

REVIEW: Fiat 500L Trekking

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

For a £700 premium over the normal 500L, Trekking spec is based on the standard car's Lounge trim, but adds 17" alloy wheels and tinted rear windows.

Highlights include a panoramic glass roof, air-conditioning, cruise control, and the company's new UConnect touch-screen infotainment system.

There's attractive bespoke seating, covered in a mesh effect material, combined with faux-leather inserts. Unfortunately the seat bases are a bit short and lack lower lumber and lateral support - meaning that some drivers may not be able to get as comfortable as they'd like.

Rear passengers get ample legroom, although headroom is only average.

Ergonomically the dashboard scores well, with clear and intuitive controls and stand out design features include an aircraft-style parking brake lever. There's no shortage of storage places, thanks to 22 compartments of different sizes dotted around the cabin.

A 400 litre boot incorporating 'Cargo magic Space' allows the boot to be split into separate sections and a flat load area, combined with an easily collapsible 'Fold&Tumble' rear seat, and folding front seat will ensure that 2.4m long loads can be carried.

The combination of excellent visibility and light but direct steering makes it an absolute breeze to thread the 500L Trekking around town.

Even on faster A and B roads the Fiat feels at home, thanks to its wieldy nature and composed body control.

Trekking can also venture off the beaten track, thanks to standard mud and snow tyres and its Traction+ electronic traction control system, which simulates the behaviour of a locking electromechanical differential.

Downsides include a fair bit of road and wind noise at motorway speeds and a firm ride at all speeds.

However, this firmness is well controlled and never deteriorates into harshness or discomfort.

The 104 bhp 1.6-litre diesel proves a sweet unit, being surprisingly smooth and also eager enough, thanks to the 236lb ft of torque on tap at 1750 rpm. The gear change has a chunky yet positive action and the clutch uptake is smooth.

• *The new Fiat 500L Trekking*

VERDICT:

Fiat's funky compact MPV is a great multi-tasker; with the space and practicality to cope admirably with family duties, while also being desirable to own and fun to drive.

This new Trekking model adds a more rugged element to the 500L, and allows it to be as adept at negotiating a bumpy country lane or slippery dirt track, as it is threading through the urban sprawl.

Facts at a glance

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Amount of Credit	£6,155	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	3.55%
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Fuel economy figures for the New Note 1.2 Acenta 5 DOOR mpg (L/100km). Urban - 47.96 (5.9), Extra Urban - 70.6 (4.0), Combined - 60.1 (4.7), CO2 emissions 109 g/km. New Micra 1.2 Acenta 5 DOOR Urban - 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban - 65.7 (4.3), Combined - 56.5 (5.0), CO2 emissions 115 g/km.
†Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request. (Over 18's only) a guarantee may be required. Models portrayed is for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 135 - 104.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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Fuel consumption figures for Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions: 99g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH..... **£12,595**

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year..... **£12,995**

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09 09 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, strobe met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD 2 a/b, ABS, 2 local owners, FSH, only £30 12 months RFL, 53,400 miles..... **£4,795**

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11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC AUTO, 5dr, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, 6 spd auto, air con, Blue tooth, alloys heated screen, front fogs, DAB radio & CD, one owner from new, very low mileage 9,313 miles..... **£11,595**

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2011-60	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV, Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, 49600 Miles	£6,495
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2010-10	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 BLUE, 3 Dr, Blue, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Bluetooth, £20 Road Tax, 23900 Miles	£5,395
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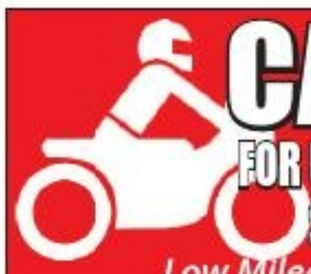

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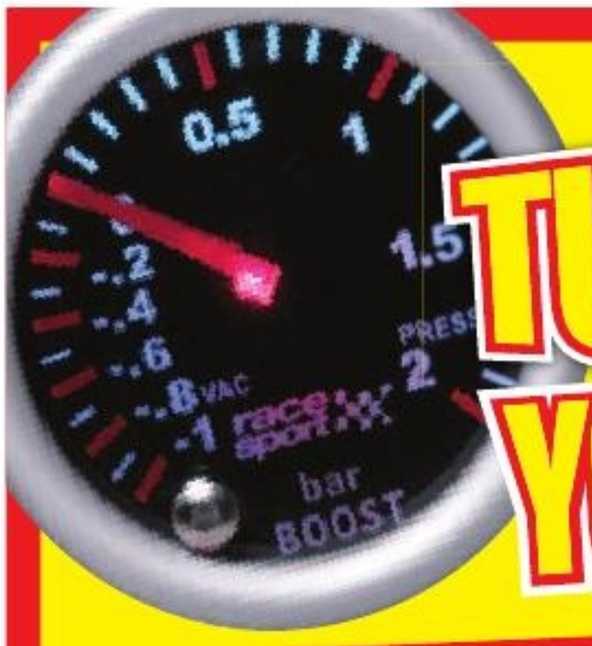

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MINI tumble drier vgc hardly used £50ono, 01235 799668

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SINGLE bed, 2'6" g.c., £5, 01235 526864

ADULT mountain bike aluminium frame & wheels, front & rear suspension, 21 gears, ready to ride away vgc, £90, 07796456587

ROCKING horse suit 2-4yr old, len 33" height 15" vgc, 25, 07796456587

FISHERPRICE littlepeople toy garage, with cars & people £25, 07796456587

SIDEBOARD/DISPLAY unit, Glass fronted with cupboards and drawers under, £350, 01865 873149

DINING set, 5 foot dining table & 4 chairs-good condition, £350, 01865 873149

LEATHER suite, Dark brown sofa, chair and pouffe-very comfy and excellent condition, £600, 01865 873149

WADE shaving mug, Wade brown mugs 2 different designs, £10, 01865 340878

DINING room table, Excellent condition L130cmxW84cm. Extends to L248cm. Must collect, £95 or nearest reasonable offer, 01993790078

ROCKING caterpillar suit 2-3yr old vgc, £25, 07796456587

CEILING light, antique finish 3 glass shades, £5, 01235 527719

COFFEE maker, Krups espresso prego excellent condition, £15, 01235 527719

MOTORCYCLE panniers, Oxford Sovereign life time luggage, £35, 01235 527719

MOTORCYCLE tank bag, and rucksack Heros by Held, £30, 01235 527719

CEILING light, brass with 3 uplight glass shades £5 01235 527719

SEVERAL garden ornaments from £10, 07514 128548

TWO stone whippets, 26" for garden, heavy, £50 each, 07514 128548

CANADIAN army jacket, very heavy warm never worn, £20, 01865 340878

FINE hand painted china tankard, with best quality gold on handle and pims collectors piece, £70, 07514 128548

8-DAY chiming clock, quite old, any decent offer taken, 01865 340878

GT Britain pre-decimal coins, in a frame, £10, 01865 340878

FRAMED comical photos, of Len Hutton & Dennis Compton ideal for cricket collector, £15, 01865 340878

HALOGEN electric heater, cheap to run, £10, 01865 340878

ROYAL Vale bone china, tea service c.40 pieces, £30, 01865 340878

BOX of old cameras & camcorders suitable for a collector, Offers, 01865 340878

SET of Poole pottery, medium plates, £10, 01865 340878

WOODEN shoe box, full of mixed meccano, £30, 01189 667940

PRIMA table top, electric oven never used, £15, 01865 730140

FOLDING director style canvas chairs (2), blue in bags as new, £12.50 each, 01865 730140

COLEMAN blow-up bed, Queen size ideal caravan awning with 12v dc pump used one week cost £60, £30, 01865 730140

LARGE oval coffee table, with glass surface excellent condition lovely piece of living room furniture £30, 01235 554688

WOODEN baby change unit, excellent condition must be seen by mums to be!, £20, 01235 554688

BRITAX child car seat, excellent condition suits child up to 18kgs or 3yrs, £35, 01235 554688

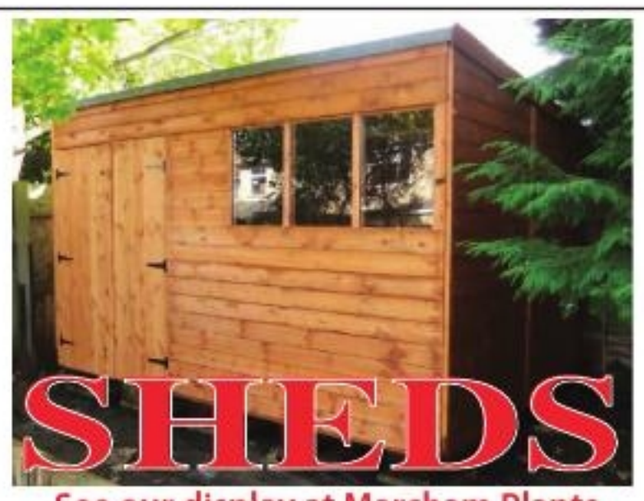
PANASONIC music centre, m/cds c/ds radio in gwo, £40, 01491 652944

PINE table, & 4 sturdy chairs £60, 01491 652944

PINE headboard, for double bed, £15, 01491 652944

PAIR of brown leather dining chairs, £30, 07855 935809

Sheds



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SIDEBOARD 1950s dark wood £25 01865 340878

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GLASS top coffee table, shelf underneath 4.5' long, £25, 01865 340878

MAGAZINE wicker coffee table £30, 01235 537571

ROCKING horse suit 2-4yr old, len 33" hight 15" vgc £25, 07796456587

CALOR gas portable fires (2), nearly new gwo, £30ono each, 07870 300236 after 4pm

OUTDOOR lights, 8 boxes lights lantern and icicles, £50, 01235 751420

VIRGIN small mobile phone Virgin sim card unused, £10, 01235 751420

3-PIECE suite settee, folds into double bed reddish maroon draylon good quality and condition, £99.99, 01865 873377

WICKER 3 piece suite, for conservatory good condition with spare set of covers, £99, 01235 537571

SQUARE wicker table, £40, 01235 537571

SMALL pine occasional table, good condition, £20, 01235 537571

DOUBLE bed 4'6", orthopaedic almost new hardly used, £99, 01235 537571

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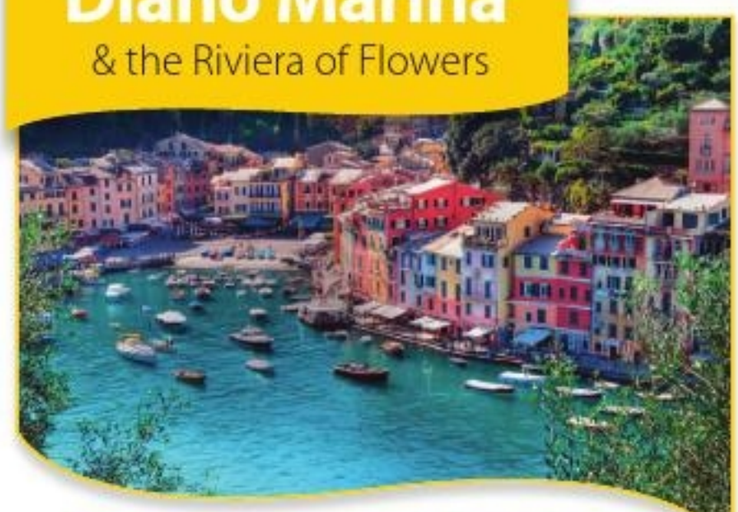

Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name. . .savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Arc en Ciel, Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
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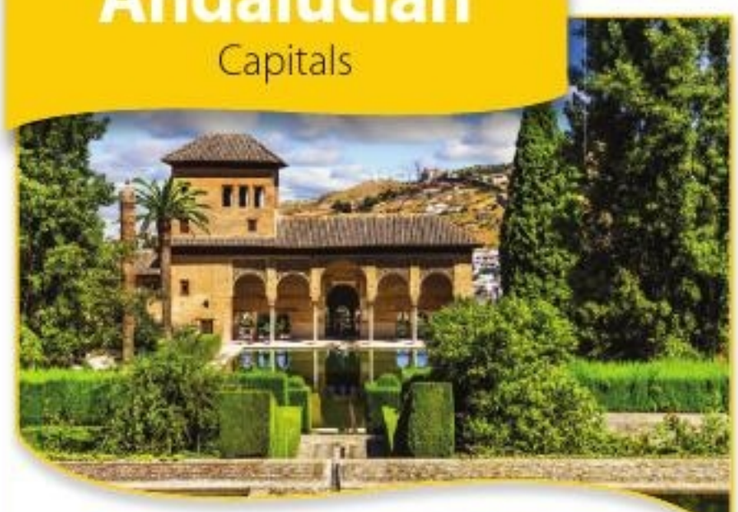
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£869pp**

†††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 7/6/14.

Andalucian
Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga††††
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes Escorted Excursions

7 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

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Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

8 days by **AIR**, from **£739pp**

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel**, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
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- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions

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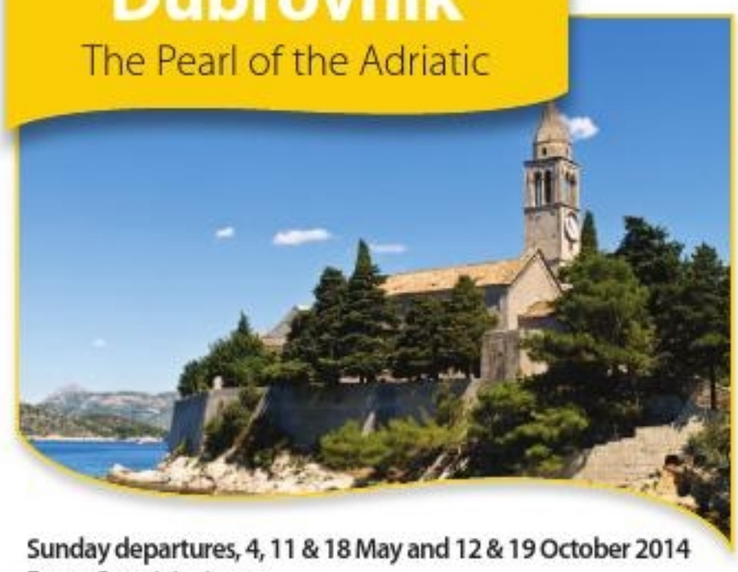
Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†††††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
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Includes Escorted Excursions

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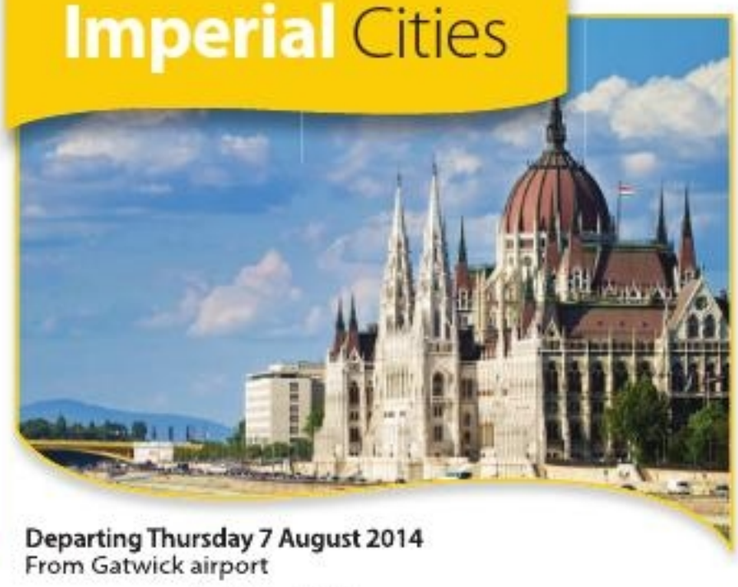
Imperial Cities



Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

- Return flights from Gatwick airport††††††; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
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- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
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Includes Escorted Excursions

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Madeira
Winter Sun

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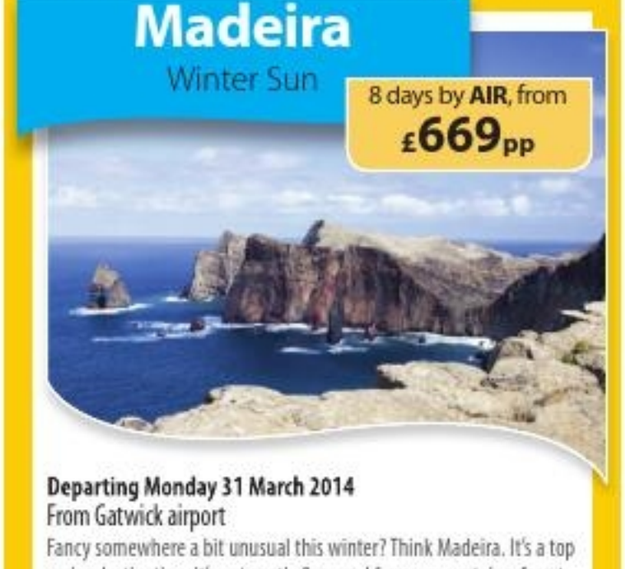

Departing Monday 31 March 2014
From Gatwick airport

Fancy somewhere a bit unusual this winter? Think Madeira. It's a top cruise destination, it's got exotic flora and fauna, mountains, forest, great food and nightlife too, but none of the party crowds. Plus it's got year-round Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, but just right!

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Wilder hopeful on potential signings

OXFORD United boss Chris Wilder says he is hopeful of bringing in at least one new face ahead of Saturday's home game against Torquay United.

United have made two additions in the January transfer window so far with midfielder Nicky Wroe and goalkeeper Jonathan Henly arriving on loan, but Wilder is looking to bring in a forward over the next few days.

Ryan Williams (back) Dave Kitson (ankle) and Alfie Potter (ankle) all missed United's FA Cup third round replay defeat at home to Charlton Atheltic on Tuesday, and Wilder feels there needs to be more competition for places higher up the pitch.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

When asked whether he was looking to bring anyone in this week, Wilder said: "Hopefully yeah, I'm pushing.

"Hopefully we can make a decision because I think we need it.

"We've got Alfie coming back, he's not far down the line, but I think we need the competition in the squad. We've got good competition in midfield with Josh Ruffels and Danny Rose and Johnny Mullins, who has played in there as a three and can do a job as a two, and Nicky Wroe has come in to the team.

"We've got Ryan Williams coming back in to the team on Saturday which will give us a spark but certainly we need a little bit and we're looking at the top of the pitch."

Ruffels was singled out as the one positive from United's 3-0 defeat to Charlton on Tuesday night with Wilder paying credit to the 20-year-old's attitude.

He said: "Josh Ruffles was outstanding. You don't take many positives from defeats but I thought he led the way and showed a lot of the players how to do it.

"When he got it he passed it and kept it and when he didn't he went and tried to get it back, he made good decisions all night and I think we didn't really do that as a team generally. It's only really Danny's form that has kept Josh out the side and he is possibly one of the only ones who is really putting pressure on the players in the team and we possibly need a little bit more of that."

United are seventh in League Two ahead of Saturday's game and Wilder is expected to make changes with Rose, Wroe, who was ineligible during midweek, and Williams set to return.

• *Josh Ruffels impressed during Oxford United's 3-0 defeat to Charlton Athletic (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Late penalty earns Grove deserved draw

ROGER Sevier's late penalty earned Grove RFC a 17-17 draw at Cheltenham last weekend.

Grove are eighth in South West 1 East and unbeaten in three but were forced to rally back from 17-9 to earn a draw last Saturday.

However, James Eckert's try and Sevier's penalty saw them earn a hard-fought draw.

This weekend Grove are aiming to make it four games unbeaten as they take on Devizes.

In the SSE National League 2 South, Chinnor were beaten 24-17 at home to second-placed Canterbury.

Chinnor have lost four of their last six and will look to stabilise their poor form when they face Hartpury College on Saturday.

Oxford Harlequins' South West 1 East clash at Swindon was postponed last week.

Quins will be hoping the weather is on their side when they play against Towcestrians on Saturday.

City beaten by United despite Cook brace

OXFORD City were dealt a blow in their battle to avoid Skrill North relegation on Tuesday night, with visiting North Ferriby United claiming all three points away from Court Place Farm.

A brace from Jamie Cook was not enough for Mike Ford's side as they slipped to a 3-2 defeat.

City face a tricky trip to mid-table Leamington on Saturday as they look to get back to winning ways.

Ford's men are currently third from bottom in the table, with 23 points from 23 games.

Gloucester (20 from 24) and Workington (14 from 25) are the only two sides currently below them.

Newton the latest new face at Oxford Rugby

WES Newton says he is looking forward to challenging for a place in head coach Tony Benson's 13 after signing for Oxford Rugby League last week.

The Hooker, whose former teams include Myton Warriors, South London Storm, Elmbridge Eagles and Oxford Cavaliers, joins the Iffley Road club for the up and coming 2014 season.

Newton said: "I am really excited to be joining Oxford RL, they have a great vision in making Rugby League big in Oxford and I am happy that I can be a part of that.

"The club is great and are doing all they can to be a success on and off the field which is fantastic."

He added: "I am looking to try and give Tony Benson a few headaches in team selection by putting myself out there and improving all aspects of my game.

"Playing regular in the first team would be a great achievement for me and a challenge I look forward to facing."

Newton trialled for Oxford last year but didn't make the cut.

Benson said: "He's come back this year in shape and has shown that he has a lot of skill and experience.

"He has been with the Broncos Academy and I'm sure he will be dangerous this year."

Sport Bites

Teeing off

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell began 2014 with a tied for 45th place finish at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship.

A third round of 69 saw the 23-year-old seven shots off the lead ahead of the final day.

However, the world No.251 carded a final round of 75, taking home €10,257.91 in prize money.

Stars stopped

OXFORD City Stars were condemned to their fourth league defeat of the season last Sunday, losing 5-2 to Cardiff Devils.

The defeat ended a six-match winning streak in all competitions for the Stars.

They will look to return to winning ways when they host Chelmsford Warriors this weekend.

Hawks win

OXFORD Hawks Men's 1s made a winning start to 2014 as they convincingly beat Staines Men's 1s 4-2 last Saturday.

Charlie Ellison netted from two penalty corners and Drew Blackburn and Martin Pickup scored from open play.

Hawks are seventh in Premier Division 1 and face Lewes Men's 1s this Saturday.

Duo sign up for Caterham

LEAFIELD-BASED Caterham F1 have announced Kamui Kobayashi and Marcus Ericsson as their drivers for the 2014 season.

Caterham failed to score any points in 2013 and have dropped last year's drivers Charles Pic and Giedo van der Garde.

Former Toyota and Sabur driver Kobayashi joins after a one-year hiatus from the sport while Ericsson makes the step up from GP2.

Kobayashi said: "It's a great feeling to be back as an F1 race driver and I'm really pleased it's with Caterham F1 Team.

"Throughout all our discussions I've been very impressed with where they want to take the team and how much investment has been made already to help them achieve their goals.

"For me, it's a great honour that the team hired me based on the value I bring in racing terms and the experience I have."

Eriksson, the first Swedish driver to feature on the F1 grid since 1991, is as equally proud to join Caterham.

"I'm already excited about the season ahead, and the first race in Australia in particular. It's obviously great for Sweden that we'll have a Swedish driver back on the grid in 2014. I know I'm ready for the step up to F1."

ABINGDON Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Rugby: Newton the latest new face at Oxford Rugby | Golfer: Teeing off

ABINGDON DENIED BY LAST GASP LEVELLER

Corner drama robs Zoldan's men of key victory over visiting Thame

LUKE Ricketts scored direct from a corner in the last minute to deny Abingdon United victory at home to Thame United last Saturday.

A brace from Graham Edney had put United in to a 2-1 lead but Ricketts' corner deceived goalkeeper Chris Rackley, earning the visitors a 2-2 draw.

United manager Andy Zoldan was gutted to share the spoils in the last minute but was pleased with how his players bounced back from defeat to Newbury a week earlier.

"I was really pleased with the performance," he said, "The lads reacted really well so that was really pleasing.

"But it did feel like a defeat rather than a well earned point.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"Over 90 minutes of the game I think a draw was a fair result, but leading 2-1 going in to the last couple of minutes, the worst thing we could have done was concede."

It was a rare start for Rackley under Zoldan, who has been kept out of the team by Gareth Tucker.

Zoldan added: "Chris has waited for his opportunity.

"Gareth was dropped because he had gone two or three games making mistakes and Chris came in and did really well.

"It was just unfortunate that the error has cost us the game."

United face AFC Hinksey in the third round of the Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup this Saturday and Zoldan is unsure whether or not to recall Tucker.

"It's a tough decision," he said, "Both are good goalkeepers.

"It does leave me with a bit of a headache for Saturday and whichever keeper I speak to and don't play it may feel like the wrong decision, so I can't win in that situation."

United are second from bottom in the Hellenic Premier Division, but Zoldan believes the performance against Thame is proof of how far his side has progressed since he took over in November.

He said: "To compete with Thame, who are a good side, it just shows that we have come a long way.

"With the players we have got now I do believe we can compete with most of the teams in this league."

Abingdon United	**2**
Thame United	**2**

• *Graham Edney grabbed both goals as Abingdon drew with Thame (Picture: Chris Janes)*

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